三家本礼

4 REIKO the ZOMBIE SHOP

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CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

REIKO NIMEIONO

AGE: 17

OCCUPATION: ZOMBIE SHOP

MAKES A LIVING BY RESURRECTING THE DEAD AND ALLOWING THEM TO SPEAK THEIR FINAL TRUTHS. RIRUKA, REIKO'S TWIN SISTER, IS ALSO A ZOMBIE SHOP. REALIZING THAT RIRUKA'S ONLY DESIRE IS TO CONQUER THE WORLD WITH AN ARMY OF ZOMBIES, REIKO SOUGHT HER OUT IN ORDER TO STOP HER. THE TWO FOUGHT, LOCKED IN A BRUTAL MELEE, AND ONLY REIKO MADE IT OUT ALIVE . . .

CHECK OUT THE FULL STORY IN *REIKO THE ZOMBIE SHOP*, VOLUMES 1 THROUGH 3, ON SALE NOW!

NUH-UH, MY LITTLE ONE! NO TOYS FOR LITTLE GIRLS WHO DON'T FINISH THEIR CARROTS!

BUT, MOMMY, PUH-LEEZE! I WANT ONE! I WANT A "PINK BABIES" DOLL!

PLEEEZE, MOMMY, PLEEEEZE!

PINK ONE

Pink Babies

LOOK!

HEY...

BUT CAR-ROTS'RE GROSS, MOMMY...

POP

YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AROUND PICK~

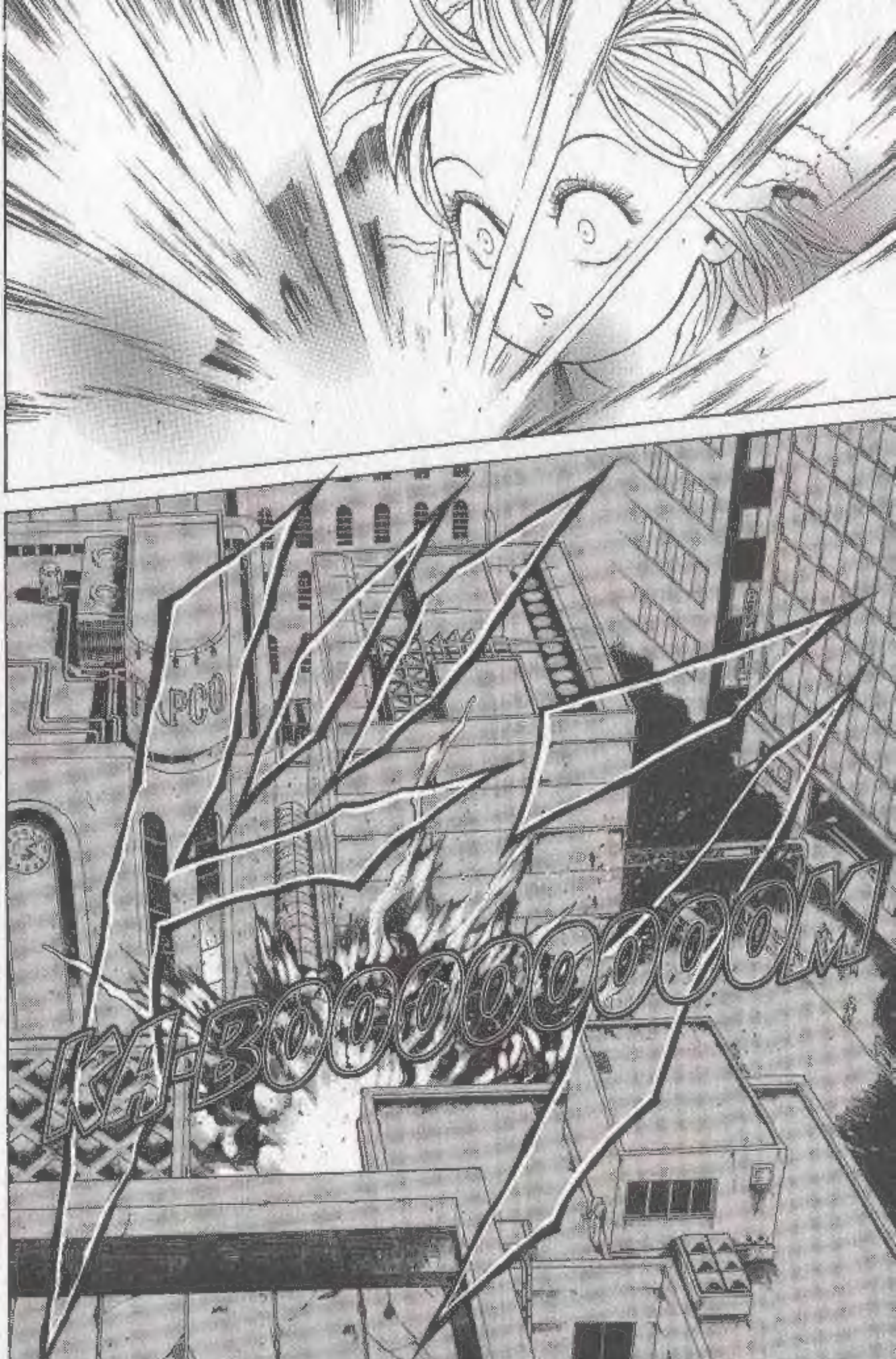
CLICK

NO, MITSUKO! GET BACK HERE!

A "PINK BABIES" DOLL!!

9"

POP


KABOOOOOOOOOOM

GLORPH!

CRASH

FUM

FUM

FUM

FUM

MY ARM!

WAAAA AAAH!

S-SOME-ONE! PLEASE! CALL 911!

MY GOD... HELP ME!

HEH HEH HEH...

THERE GOES BLAST NUMBER ONE...

AND TWO AND THREE WILL GO OFF BEFORE THESE PEOPLE EVEN REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING.

ONE YEAR LATER...

"ALL CITIZENS, AGES SIXTEEN AND UP, SHALL BE GIVEN THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:
1. THE RIGHT TO BEAR AND USE FIREARMS.
2. THE RIGHT TO FREE HALLUCINOGENS, STIMULANTS AND BARBITUATES, ALL OF WHICH ARE TO BE SUPPLIED BY NATIONAL LEGISLATION."

THEY HAVE FINALLY RELEASED THEIR DEMANDS TO THE PUBLIC, WHICH READ AS FOLLOWS...

THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION "GIGADETH" CONTINUES ITS INDISCRIMINATE KILLING SPREE, PLACING BOMBS DISGUISED AS TOYS IN CITY MARKETPLACES.

NO KIDDING! THAT'S SO LAME!

OH MY GOD! I'M SO SURE! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAD US ON LIKE THAT AND THEN NOT TELL US...

ALL DEMANDS AFTER ONE AND TWO ARE SO DISCRIMINATORY AND PREJUDICIAL THAT, DUE TO FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS RULINGS, THEY CAN'T BE AIRED. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

AH! WE'RE REALLY SORRY, CHIEF NURSE IGARASHI...

WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN? YOUR BREAK WAS OVER TWO MINUTES AGO.

KA-CHACK

WE WERE WATCHING THE LATEST "GIGADETH" NEWS.

WELL, IN THAT CASE...

DID THEY FINALLY FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND EVERY-THING?

UM... NO, NOT YET.

AND HOW WAS IT?

KA-THUD

JESUS CHRIST!

KRASHHH

...WHEN IT'S YOUR JOB, YOUR *DUTY*, TO SAVE LIVES!

I AM SHOCKED THAT YOU TWO GET OFF ON HEARING ABOUT TERRORISTS KILLING PEOPLE...

YOU TWO SLUGS GET BACK TO THE NURSE'S STATION.

ICE CREAM

PARKING

HERE YOU GO, ONE SCOOP OF RUM RAISIN. THAT'LL BE 200 YEN, PLEASE.

THANK YOU, MISS!

BUT I GUESS IT'S WORTH IT. I HAVEN'T HAD A NIGHT OUT IN A WHILE.

I'M TOTALLY LOST...

AH, SHOOT ...

FUCK-IN' MOVE IT!

SPLAT

YOU THINK YOU TWO ASS-HOLES'RE GONNA ARREST ME?!

YOU TWO ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE IT COMIN', SHIT-HEADS.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, AOIDE!

WHAT THE-- !?

SNAG

SWOOSH

NO, DON'T!

KRACKKK-

:WOBBLE:

CLOD

HUH?

GET DOWN!

:THUD:

?

?

YOU TWO OKAY?

I'M INVESTIGATOR FUKUBE, FROM THE FIRST PRECINCT.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN APPREHENDING THIS FILTH.

YOU SICKO CULTIST. YOU MAKE ME WANNA PUKE!

GET IN THERE!

ALL OF THEIR MEMBERS HAVE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IMPLANTED IN THEIR BODIES.

THIS SCUM'S NAME IS AOIDE. HE'S A MEMBER OF THAT GROUP THAT'S BEEN NONSTOP TROUBLE, "GIGADETH." I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF THEM.

RIGHT. ANYWAY, WHAT'S UP WITH THE GAG? AND WHY'D YOU TWO HIT THE GROUND?

THE DETONATOR, IN TURN, EXPLODES A SMALL BOMB INSIDE THE CULTIST.

YEAH. ONE OF THEIR MOLARS IS MADE OF PLASTIC, AND IS BASICALLY A SWITCH.

IF THEY BITE DOWN REALLY HARD, AND CRUSH THAT MOLAR, IT TRIGGERS THE DETONATOR.

EX-EXPLOSIVE DEVICE?

BUT YOU, MISS, HAVE GIVEN US OUR BREAK...

THAT SHOULD HOPEFULLY GIVE US ENOUGH INFO TO START A LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATION OF GIGADETH, AND OF HOW THEY WORK.

NOW THAT WE HAVE ONE OF THEM ALIVE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO EXTRACT THE BOMB FROM INSIDE HIS BODY.

IN THE PAST WE'VE MANAGED TO ARREST FOUR GIGADETH MEMBERS, BUT ALL OF THEM HAVE.. WELL... *AVOIDED* QUESTION NG BY BLOW.NG THEMSELVES UP.

IN A COUPLE OF CASES, THE SICK BASTARDS EVEN TOOK DETECTIVES DOWN WITH THEM.

BECAUSE OF THIS, WE'VE YET TO REALLY FIND OUT ANY CONCRETE INFORMATION ABOUT GIGADETH.

DETECTIVE, DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ME THIS MUCH?

AND BESIDES, I JUST ASKED A SIMPLE QUESTION.

I MEAN, I'M JUST YOUR ORDINARY AVERAGE CIVILIAN.

THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE GONNA LET THIS ONE BLOW UP ON US. NOT AFTER WE'VE COME THIS FAR!

"ORDINARY AVERAGE CIVILIAN"? COME ON, WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

REIKO HIMEZONO, A.K.A. *THE ZOMBIE SHOP.*

THIS POWER THAT YOU HAVE...

I ASK YOU NOW TO HELP US, TO PLEASE JUST LET US BORROW YOUR TALENT!

A ZOMBIE SHOP AWAKENS THE DEAD, AND IS ABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THAT ONLY THE DEAD WOULD KNOW...

WITHOUT YOU, THAT STRING OF BRUTAL SERIAL SLAYINGS IN SHIRAIKE WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN STOPPED!

SO COULD YOU PLEASE, PLEASE ASSIST US IN THIS?

...YOU COULD JUST RESURRECT HIM, SO WE'D STILL BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!

IF WE MAKE A MISTAKE TRYING TO EXTRACT THE BOMB INSIDE AOIDE, AND HE WINDS UP DEAD...

REAM

WELL, I CAN GIVE YOU 100,000 YEN, OUT OF MY OWN POCKET.

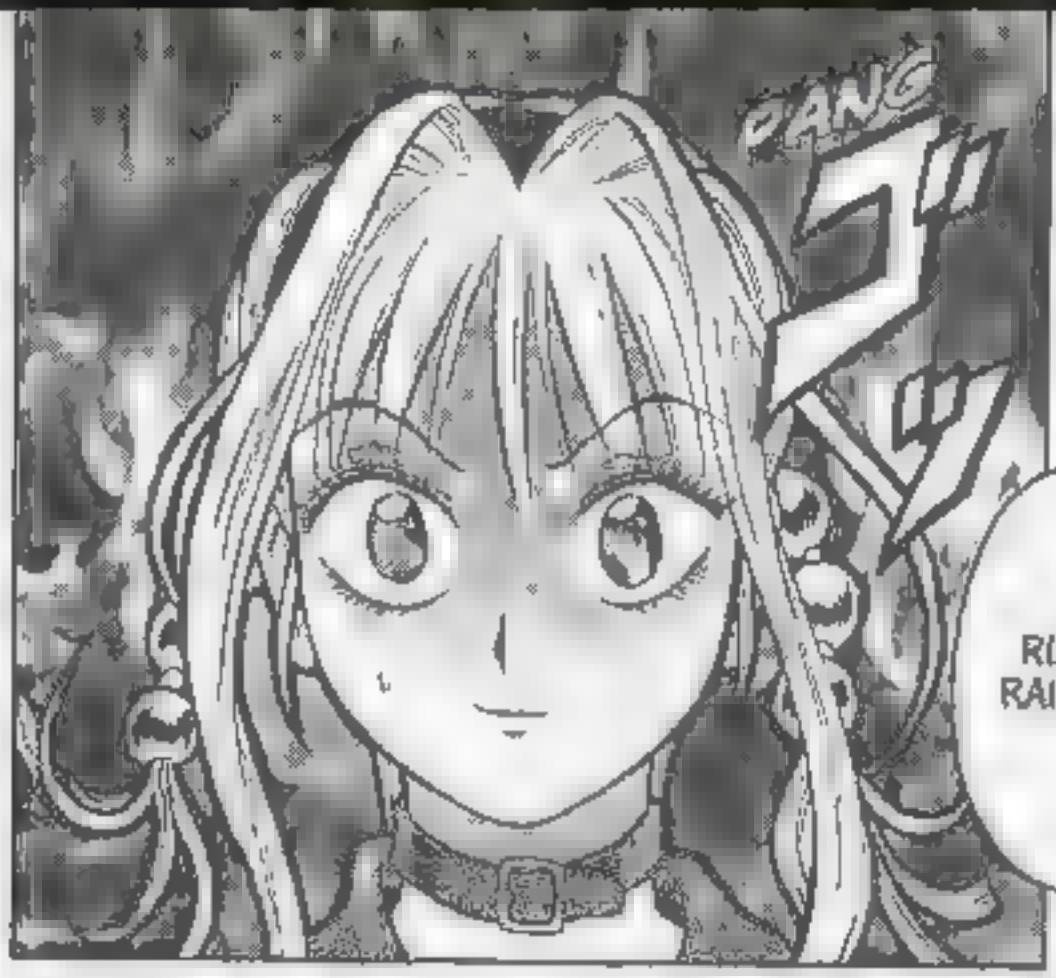
THAT, AND...

LET'S SEE...

"WHAT ARE WE GONNA PAY YOU," RIGHT? I KNEW YOU'D ASK THAT!

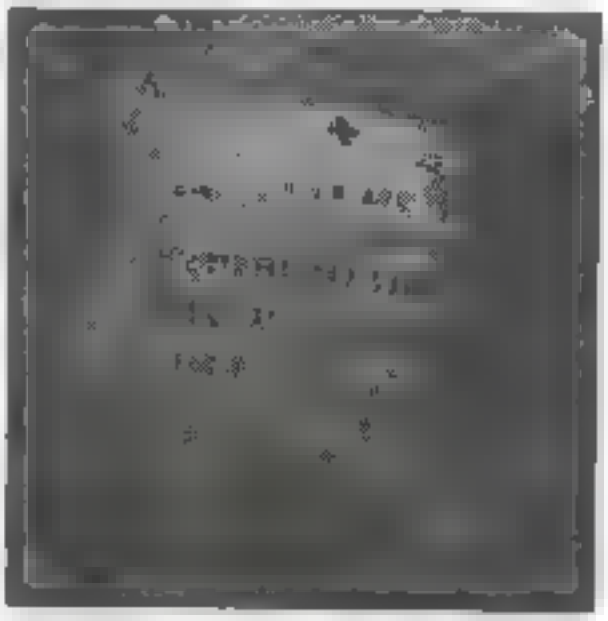
I WAS GONNA SAY "WHATEVER," BUT I MIGHT AS WELL HEAR HIM OUT.

WHAT --?


PANG

RUM RAISIN!
...ALL THE ICE CREAM YOU CAN EAT FOR A YEAR!

...IS COMING TO OUR HOSPITAL?
SIR, A MEMBER OF GIGADETH...



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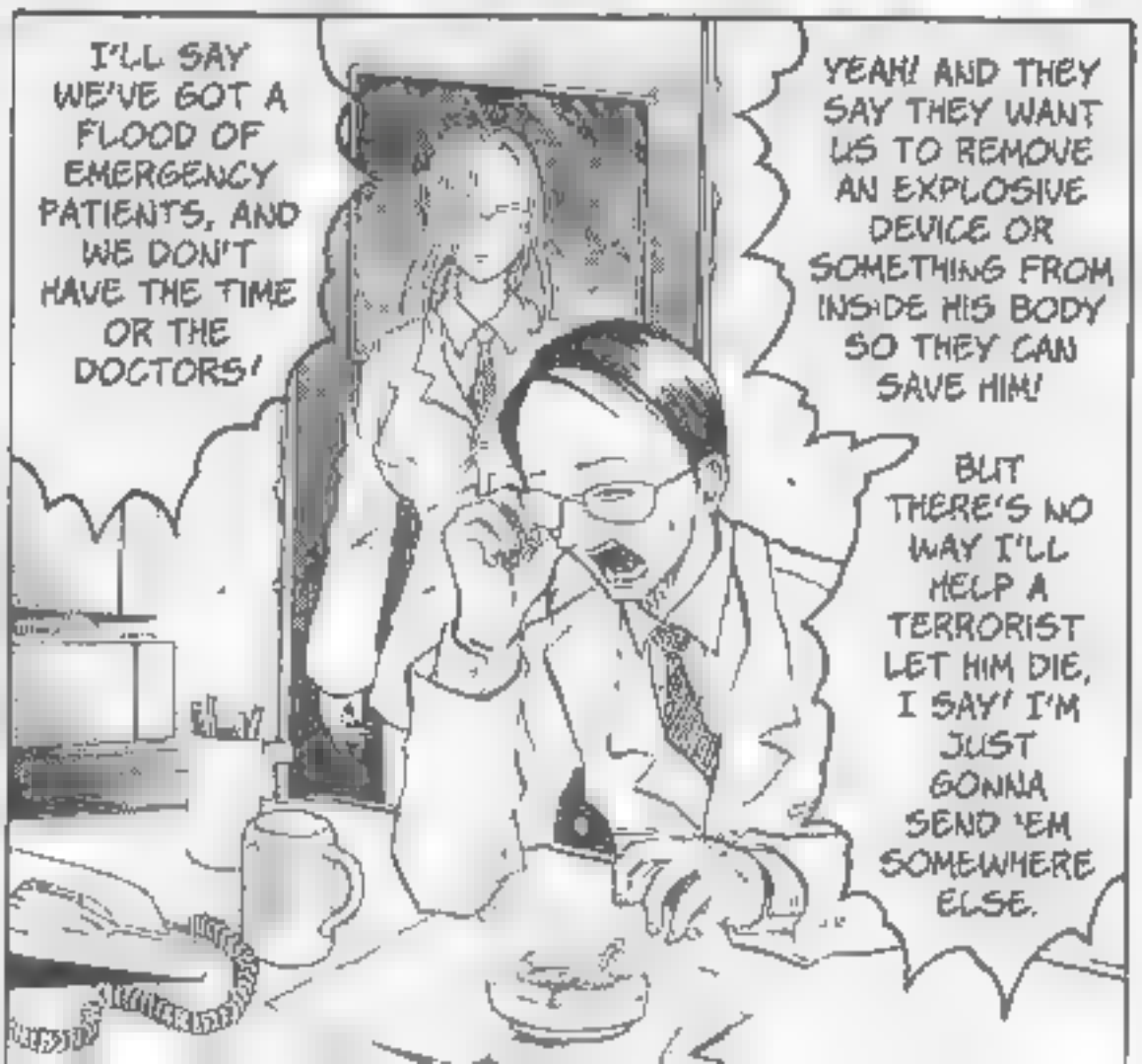
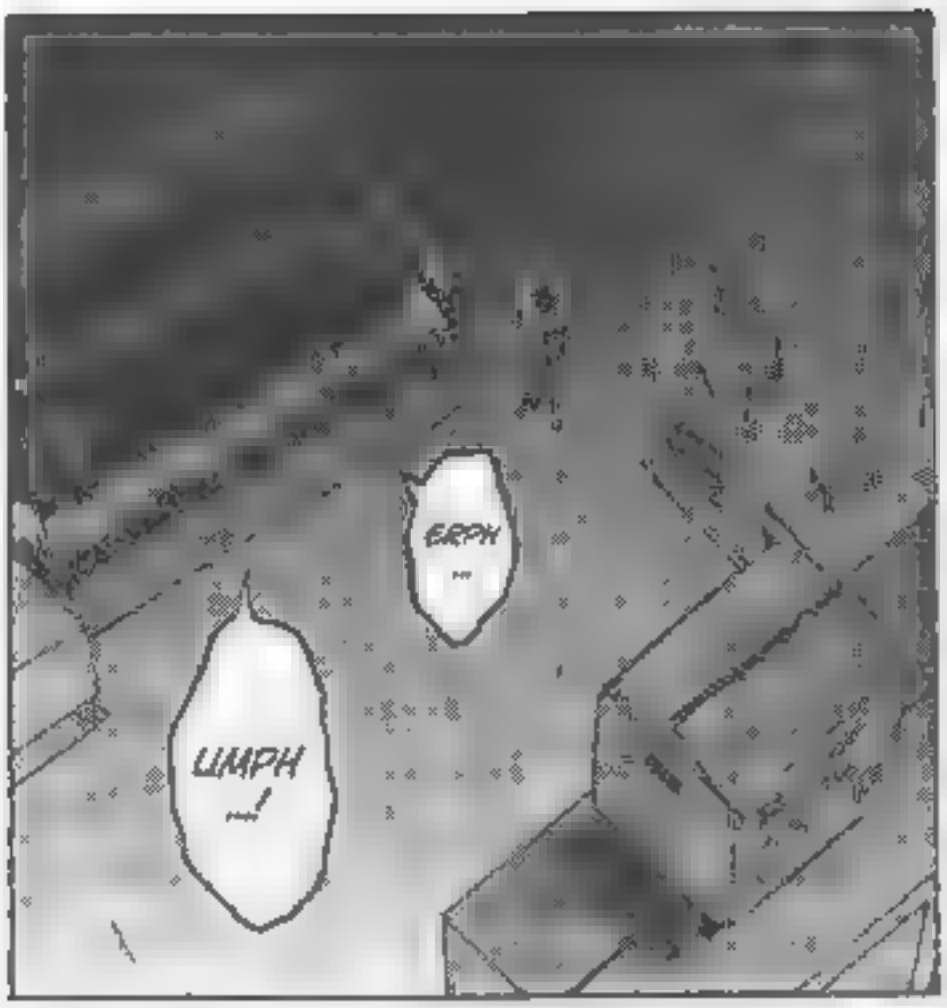
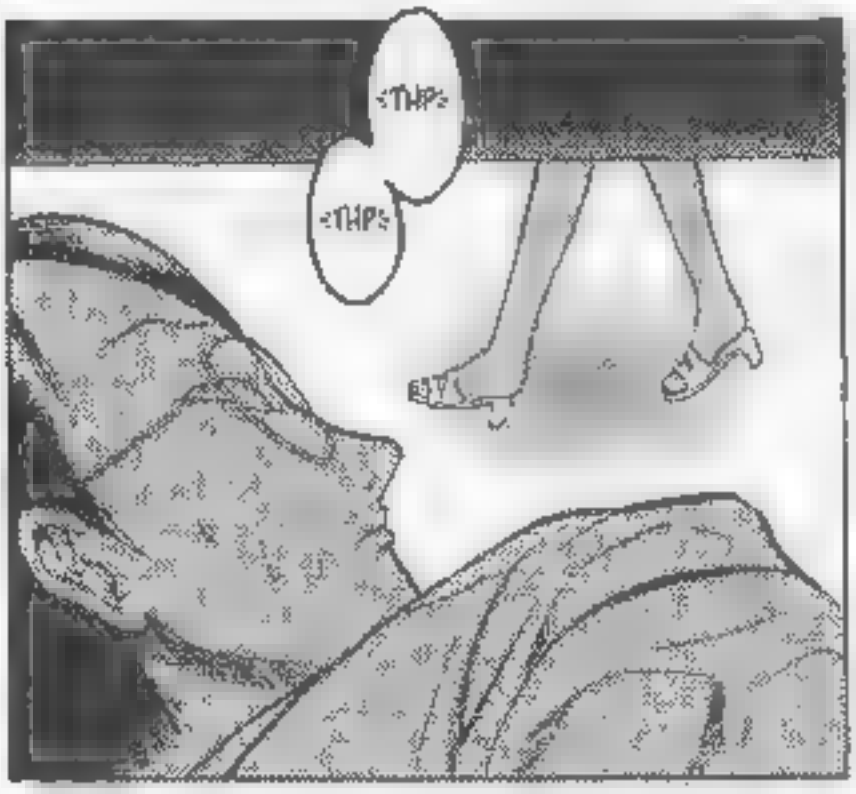
I KNOW YOU'LL AGREE, NURSE IGARASHI, RIGHT?!


I'LL SAY WE'VE GOT A FLOOD OF EMERGENCY PATIENTS, AND WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE DOCTORS!
YEAH! AND THEY SAY THEY WANT US TO REMOVE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE OR SOMETHING FROM INSIDE HIS BODY SO THEY CAN SAVE HIM!
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'LL HELP A TERRORIST LET HIM DIE, I SAY! I'M JUST GONNA SEND 'EM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

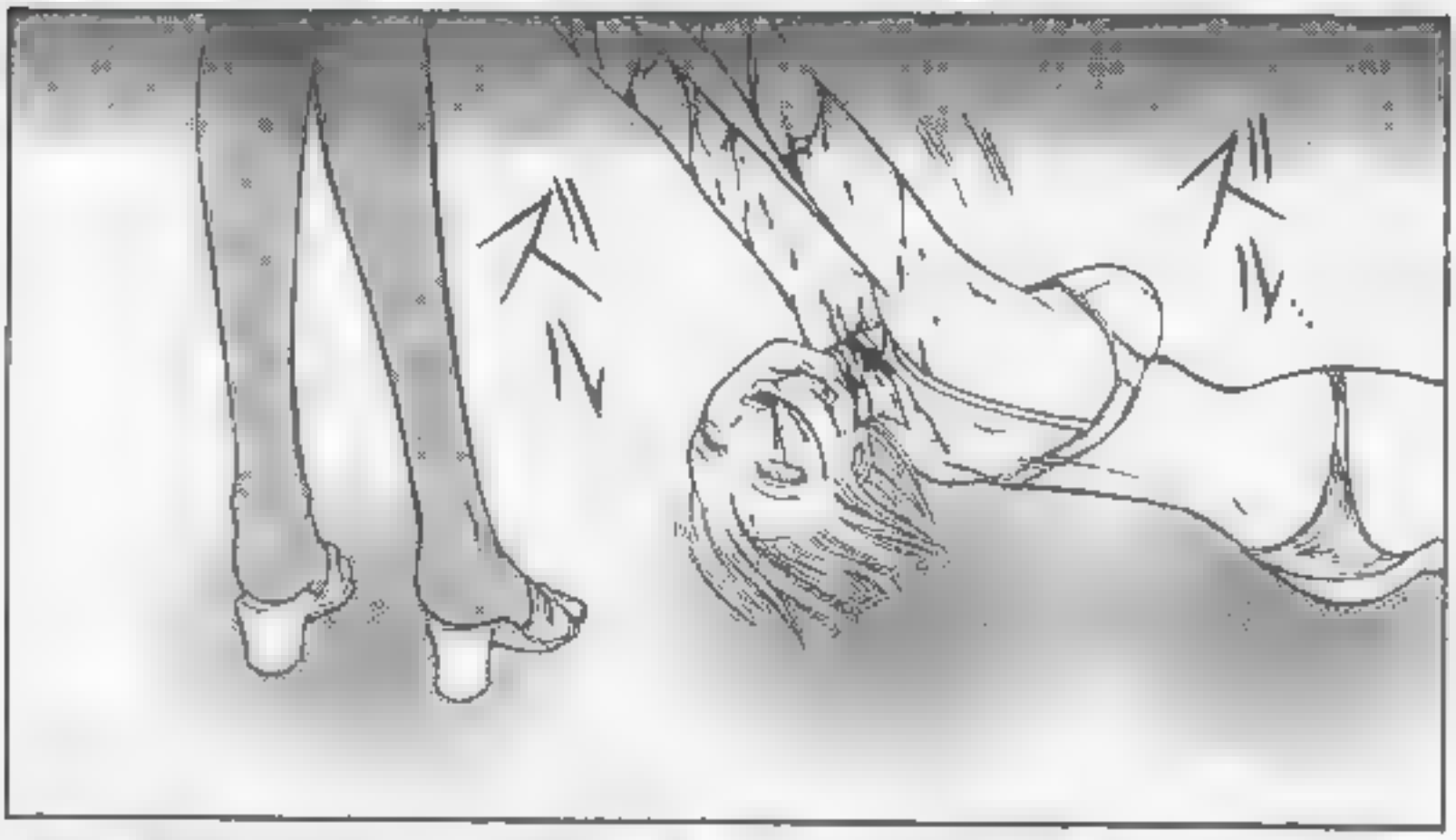

UMPH
...!
ERPH
...

WOMENS' CHANGING ROOM

I'M GONNA FIRE HER ASS SO FAST HER HEAD'LL SPIN!
WHAT THE HELL DOES ISARASHI THINK SHE'S DOING?!
DOES SHE THINK THAT SHE CAN JUST TAKE ME, THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOSPITAL, CAPTIVE AND STUFF ME IN HERE?!


THP
THP

SH-SHIT! SOME-ONE'S HERE!



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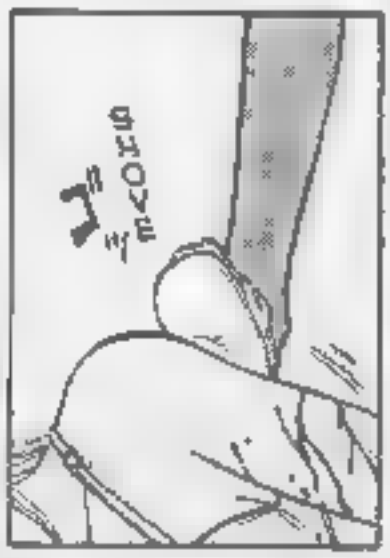
*ROLLS


*ROLLS

MY GOD —
UGH —

*NOTE: BLACK JACK, A CHARACTER CREATED BY THE LEGENDARY OSAMU TEZUKA, IS AN UNLICENSED SURGEON WHO COVERS HIS RIGHT EYE WITH HIS HAIR.

WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THE HAIR OVER HER EYE? DOES SHE THINK SHE'S BLACK JACK* OR SOMETHING?

THANKS, IT'S A PLEASURE. SO, WHAT COULD YOU GATHER FROM YOUR EXAMINATION OF AOIDE?

NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M DOCTOR IGARASHI, AND I'LL BE PERFORMING THE OPERATION.

I ANESTHETIZED AOIDE, LAPSING HIM INTO A COMATOSE STATE. FROM THERE, I GAVE HIM A FULL CAT-SCAN.

I HAVE LOCATED A SINGLE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE, PLANTED SUBCUTANEOUSLY IN THE FAT OF HIS ABDOMEN.

I CAN REMOVE THE DEVICE WITH NO MORE THAN A SMALL INCISION.

GIVEN THIS PROTECTION, EVEN SOMEONE LIKE MYSELF, WHO HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF EXPLOSIVES, CAN EASILY REMOVE THE BOMB AS LONG AS THE SWITCH LOCATED IN THE SUBJECT'S MOLAR IS SECURED.

THE BOMB ITSELF IS WAFER-THIN, AND ONLY FIVE CENTIMETERS SQUARE.

IT IS COATED WITH A THIN FILM OF SILICONE, WHICH HELPS PREVENT ACCIDENTAL DETONATION FROM OCCURING AS A RESULT OF ANY APPLICATION OF PRESSURE OR SHOCK TO THE BODY.

EVEN IF SHE IS COOPERATING WITH YOU, I DON'T RECALL AUTHORIZING HER TO OBSERVE THE PROCEDURE.

...HOW LONG WILL THE YOUNG WOMAN BE HANGING AROUND HERE?

OH, AND...

OH, SHE'S...

I'M REIKO HIMEZONO.

I'M THE ZOMB—

I AM THE ZOMBIE SHOP.

AND IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO AOIDE DURING YOUR PROCEDURE, I'D BE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HELP YOU.

WHAT I MEANT BY THAT WAS "GET OUTTA HERE," YOU LITTLE NOSY BRAT!

DR. IGA-RASHI! PLEASE!

PLEASE, JUST CALM DOWN!

...AND WE'LL NEED HER HELP TO GET ANY FURTHER WITH THIS INVESTI-GATION, SO PLEASE...

SHE HAS HELPED US GET THIS FAR...

WHAT-EVER. FINE.

IF SOMETHING UNEXPECTED SHOULD HAPPEN DURING THE OPERATION, YOU CAN TALK TO ME THROUGH THIS MICROPHONE.

IT'S CONNECTED DIRECTLY TO THE OPERATING THEATRE.

I DON'T WANT TO RILE MYSELF UP BEFORE AN OPERATION, ANYWAY.

AND WITH THAT, I'M HEADING IN TO START THE REMOVAL PROCEDURE.

STAP!

RATHER SEE DEAD?

WELL, WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST LET SOMEONE ELSE PERFORM THE OPERATION, THEN?

SHE DOES, AFTER ALL, HAVE TO HELP SAVE A PERSON THAT SHE'D RATHER SEE DEAD.

TO ME, IT MAKES SENSE THAT DR. IGARASHI'D GET MAD

GEEZ! WHY'D SHE JUST START FLIPPIN' OUT ON ME?

I MEAN, DON'T YOU THINK THERE'D BE A REASON?

BUT STILL, WHY DOES SHE HATE GIGADETH SO MUCH?

IT'S NOT EXACTLY SOMETHING I CAN SAY IF I WERE JUST TO GO SPOUTING OUT REASONS WHY...

...I'D LIKELY JUST WIND UP PISSING HER OFF.

SO, THAT'S WHY SHE HAS TO PERFORM THE OPERATION HERSELF.

THE KEY TO STOPPING GIGADETH HINGES ON THIS OPERATION BEING SUCCESSFUL.

WE NEED HER TO FEEL THAT WAY IT WILL WORK IN OUR FAVOR IF HER CONTEMPT IS HARNESSED CORRECTLY

"I WILL BE THE ONE WHO SEES THAT GIGADETH IS PUNISHED!"

...I HAVE NO PROBLEMS IF ANY OF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR OWN WELL-BEING, AND WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE NOW.

IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT WE'LL BE REMOVING A BOMB...

HELLO, ALL. I WILL BE THE OPERATING SURGEON.

PLEASE SECURE THAT FLAP WITH THE FORCEPS.

OKAY, THEN.

LET'S GET STARTED.

!

TI

I THOUGHT HE WAS ANESTHETIZED!

HE'S AWAKE?! NO WAY!

THIS IS TYPICAL OF MANY DRUG ADDICTS... HE'S BUILT UP A RESISTANCE TO THE ACTIVE ELEMENTS IN THE ANESTHESIA BECAUSE OF REPEATED DRUG USE.

NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM GETTING INTO HIS STOMACH WITH MY SCALPEL AND GETTING RID OF THAT BOMB!

HOWEVER, I DON'T CARE IF HE'S CONSCIOUS OR NOT.

SHE THINKS SHE'S GONNA CUT THIS OUT OF ME?

THIS IS ONE BRAVE-ASS BITCH...

WAIT, DID YOU JUST...

CR-K-K!

EAT SHIT!

EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T ACTIVATE THE BOMB. WE'RE STILL GOING TO PROCEED WITH THE REMOVAL SURGERY.

WE CAN'T ALLOW THE POLICE TO DETAIN A SUSPECT WHO HAS A BOMB INSIDE HIM.

HEH... HEHEH ...

...HEH HEH HEH HEH...

...TRY TO BITE DOWN ON THE SWITCH THAT WAS PLANTED IN YOUR MOLAR? IF YOU DID, IT'S A LITTLE LATE.

YOUR TOOTH HAD PRETTY MUCH FALLEN OUT ONTO THE STREET WHEN YOU GOT KICKED IN THE FACE.

NOW WE'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE, SAFE AND SOUND.

IT'S BECAUSE THAT WAS THE LEAST PAINFUL WAY TO DIE?!

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THOSE WHO GOT CAUGHT IN THE PAST BLEW THEMSELVES UP?! HUH?!

HYAHAHAHA! YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT GIGADETH IS CAPABLE OF, DO YOU?!

IF THEY HADN'T KILLED THEMSELVES, GIGADETH WOULD'VE SENT THE "CLEAN-UP CREW" TO MOP THEIR ASSES UP!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE CREW IS, AND I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE WAYS THEY TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THEY'LL LET ME LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO TALK, BITCH?!

GIGADETH REALIZES THAT I'M THE RISKIEST PERSON TO HAVE AROUND, AND THEY WON'T LET ME SPILL ANY OF THEIR SECRETS TO THE POLICE!

CLANG!

...I'LL BE DEA--

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...

THOSE DUDES WILL BE HERE SOON, SO WATCH YOUR ASSES.

SHIT... THEY COULD ALREADY BE HERE NOW, BITCH.

WHACK

?!

WHAM

GET OUTTA THERE! THAT "NURSE" IS ONE OF THEM!

HEE-YAHH!

:TAP: :TAP:

GLORPH!

SLASH

SLICE

ゴオオオ

SNIP!

DON'T KILL ME. I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM SHIT!

THE CLEAN-UP CREW IS HERE!

WH-WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

ENJOY YOUR LAST FEW MOMENTS. I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU AFTER I TAKE CARE OF THESE THREE.

LETTING YOU LIVE WOULD BE MISLEADING TO OTHER MEMBERS. LEAD BY EXAMPLE, THEY SAY.

YOU WERE DEAD THE MOMENT THEY CAUGHT YOU, BUT YOU DIDN'T BLOW YOURSELF UP.

...ISN'T ME OR YOU!

BUT THE PERSON SHE'S AFTER THE MOST...

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S INCLUDING US ON HER "TO KILL" LIST

"THESE THREE"?

...

...

!!

WHA —?!

...BECAUSE NOW I HAVE TO SUMMON TWO ZOMBIES.

WELL, FIRST OFF, MY FEE HAS DOUBLED TO 200,000 YEN...

WHAT THE HELL'RE WE GONNA DO?

SHIT!

DIE!

NO...

OH, SATAN, LORD OF DEMONS, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

EVIL EYES

...BREATHE LIFE INTO DEATH, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT'S BREATH!

INTO THESE TWO FALLEN...

!

AGHH!

AH...

AH...

WHAT'RE YOU YELLING ABOUT, AOIDE?

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A VOODOO SPELL OR SOMETHING? STAY BACK, MISS PRISS!

I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU AFTER I FINISH THIS ONE OFF, SO BEHAVE YOURSELF.

!

KABLAM

YOU SHOULD BE DEAD... I BROKE YOUR NECK!

WHAT THE HELL!?

GYA-BLO RRR GHH H!

YOU STILL AROUND, TOO?!

DO-GYA AAA H!

BLAM

...BUT IT CAN'T PUT ITS HANDS ON ME IF ITS HANDS ARE NOTHING BUT GROUND BEEF!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL THAT THING IS...

IT FIRES SPECIAL EXPLOSIVE FLECHETTE ROUNDS THAT PENETRATE A TARGET, THEN BLAST SHRAPNEL OUTWARDS, LEAVING NOTHING BUT SHREDDED MEAT!

THIS GUN WAS DEVELOPED BY GIGADETH!

?

SPLURTCH!

GOT TO DO THIS NOW, IF I'M GOING TO DO IT.

YA AAA AA!

GIVE ME SOME FUCKIN' GAS! FUUUCK!

FUU UUC CCC KK KK!

SPLITCH

SPLURPP

ゴゴゴゴゴ

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT BACK?

HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU GUYS DEVEL-OPED...

PHEW...

SPLAT

?!

BITCH!

KRUNCH

KA-BOOOOM!

FFFF

TWO WEEKS LATER...

SO I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT GIGADETH IS SHUT DOWN, RIGHT?

WE ARRESTED A TOTAL OF THIRTY MEMBERS, WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE THE ENTIRETY OF THE ORGANIZATION.

AS A RESULT OF AOIDE'S TESTIMONY, WE WERE ABLE TO FIND AND RAID GIGADETH'S HIDEOUT.

YUM! YUM!

CHOMP CHOMP

"YEAH, BUT," WHAT?

?

YEAH, BUT...

BUT REIKO, I CAN EAT AS MUCH AS I WANT!

YUM, YUM!

AND I ALWAYS HAVE A BIGGER APPETITE WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS BUYING!

JASMINE, HAVE YOU PUT ON WEIGHT?

YOUR FRIEND SURE LIKES THAT ICE CREAM...

PINK ONE

Pink Bottle

I KNOW THAT YOU REALLY WANTED THIS...

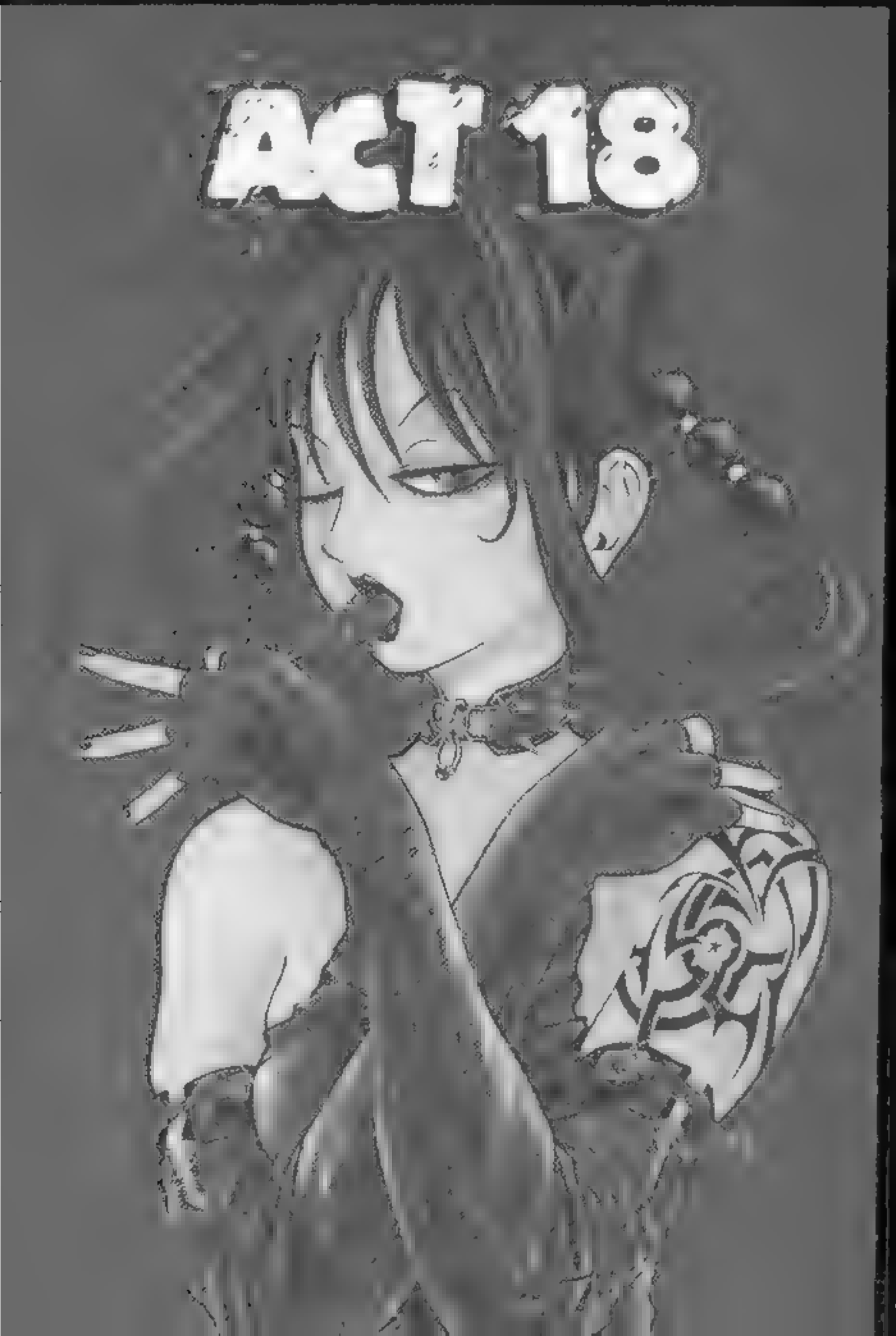
...MY DEAR MI-TSUKO.

PLAY AS MUCH AS YOU WANT. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

...THAT THOSE MEAN, SICK PEOPLE PAID FOR WHAT THEY DID TO YOU.

MOMMY HAS MADE SURE...

ACT 18



REIKO THE ZOMBIE SHOP

YOU WORTHLESS PIECE OF SHIT!

SMASH

RISA, PLEASE! CALM DOWN! IT'S ONLY BEEN AN HOUR SINCE I CALLED!

OW!

SHUT THE FUCK UP!!

SHE'LL BE HERE ANY TIME NOW. JUST CHILL OU--

UGH

I MADE A BIG MISTAKE, RELYING ON YOU TO KIDNAP THE LITTLE BRAT!

AH. AGH.

THE "ZOMBIE SHOP," RIGHT? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW FUCKING STUPID YOU ARE?!

STUFF LIKE THIS ONLY HAPPENS WHEN A SHITHEAD LIKE YOU IS INVOLVED!

LOOK AT HER FUCKIN' NECK!

IT'S BROKEN!

YOU CAN'T GET A RANSOM FROM THE PARENTS IF THEY CAN'T HEAR THEIR KID'S VOICE TO CHECK IF THE KID'S ALIVE, NOW CAN YOU?!

KA-THUNK

THEN SOME ASSHOLE REAR-ENDED ME! IT WAS THEIR FAULT!

BUT, RISA, IT WAS GOIN' REALLY GOOD UP UNTIL THE "GETTING HER INTO THE CAR" PART!

SHE WAS KICKIN' AND SCREAMIN' SO LOUD I HAD TO SHOVE HER INTO THE TRUNK.

THE PARENTS WERE SUPPOSED TO HEAR THEIR KID SCREAMING IN THE BACKGROUND! THEY WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED THE PIGS 'CAUSE THEY WOULDA BEEN AFRAID FOR THEIR BRAT'S LIFE!

I DON'T WANT EXCUSES, MORON! IF WE CALL THE KID'S PARENTS NOW, ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS CALL THE COPS AND WE'RE FINISHED!

BUT WE CAN'T DO THAT NOW, SINCE YOU WENT AND GOT HER KILLED, SHITFACE!

CAPERTAS
PERADO

EXCUSE ME, YOUNG MISS!
EX-CUSE ME!

A PRETTY YOUNG LADY LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE HANGING OUT AT A PLACE LIKE THIS!

THIS PLACE IS CONDEMNED, AND ALL THE TENANTS MOVED OUT A LONG TIME AGO.

WHAT?

IF YOU WANT CHANGE, I DON'T HAVE ANY.

THANK YOU, MA'AM.

BUT I HAVE WORK I HAVE TO GET TO IN HERE.

NOW THERE'S NO ONE BUT HOMELESS FOLKS LIKE ME, AND DOPEHEADS, COMING IN AND OUT OF THERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR BUSINESS IS AROUND HERE, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO GO IN THERE.

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE.

...SHE STARTS CHANTING AND BRINGS BACK THE DEAD, I THINK.

SHE'S A GIRL... I THINK SHE'S A HIGH-SCHOOLER... AND, UH, IF YOU GIVE HER MONEY...

LET'S HEAR IT THEN, EIZO.

TELL ME... WHAT EXACTLY DOES THIS "ZOMBIE SHOP" LOOK LIKE?

THAT'S RIGHT, EINSTEIN!

ドリ ドリ

YOWCH!

MONEY? HOW WE GONNA PAY HER?

I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, HUH? THAT'S WHY WE WE'RE DOING THIS WHOLE KIDNAPPING THI--

HOW? WELL, I MEAN...

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE WE SLIPPED IN HERE... I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN SLEEPING IN A CAR.

BUT WE GOTTA GET US SOME MONEY, FAST.

YOU IDIOT. LIKE THERE'S RUNNING WATER IN A PLACE WITH NO ELECTRICITY.

:TWIST: :TWIST:

WHADDAYA DOIN' ME LIKE THAT FOR, RISA?!

WATER! WATER!

MAYBE IT'S THE ZOMBIE SHOP?!

SOME-ONE'S HERE.

:THUD:

:THUD:

:THUD:

I HOPE TO GOD IT AIN'T THE PIGS...

:THUD:

:THUD:

EIZO! WRAP THE BODY IN A BLANKET

SMASH

ARGH!

ASS-HOLES! GET OUTTA MY PLACE...

YEA-ARRG GHH!

I-I THINK HE'S DEAD!

RISA, THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP!

NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO MEDDLE IN YOUR AFFAIRS OR ANYTHING.

SO... IS THAT SLUMPED-OVER BUM THE WORK?

SHE... SHE CAME...

IT'S NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO ACT ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY. I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE ARRESTED AS AN ACCOMPLICE OR SOMETHING.

...THERE'S THE CHANCE THAT I WILL HAVE TO TURN YOUR "CASE" DOWN IF IT'S INVOLVED IN ANY CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

BEFORE WE START NEGOTIATING THE PRICE, THERE'S ONE THING THAT I HAVE TO LET YOU KNOW...

EIZO!

SHOW HER THE BODY

I CAN MAKE A CORPSE CONSCIOUS AGAIN, BUT I CAN'T STOP THEIR BODY FROM ROTTING.

NOT REVIVE. *ZOM-BIFY.*

C-CAN YOU REALLY REVIVE THE DEAD? I MEAN, REALLY BRING 'EM BACK?

A KID...?

I KNOW I SAID I WOULDN'T MEDDLE, BUT...

Y-YEAH, RIGHT.

SHE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS, AND BROKE HER NECK.

I'VE DECIDED THAT I JUST CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT SAYING MY LAST GOODBYES TO HER.

"THIS GIRL," AS YOU CALL HER, IS MY LITTLE SISTER.

...HOW DID THIS GIRL WIND UP LIKE THIS?

...I HAVE TO ASK YOU, JUST IN CASE...

FAIR ENOUGH. AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE TO TALK MONEY NOW.

HMM. OKAY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.

SO, TO ANSWER YOUR FIRST QUESTION, YOUR WORK ISN'T THIS HOMELESS MAN. HE'S JUST FILTH.

SOME-THING'S UP HERE...

SKER-CHIK

...I'M GONNA TRY TO SEE WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE.

WELL, THAT'S JUST THE THI—

THUD

PRICE ISN'T AN ISSUE! ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU GIVE US A COUPLE OF DAYS TO PAY YOU.

THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO EITHER ONE.

I WAS READING AN ARTICLE IN IT ABOUT TWO YOUNG GIRLS WHO WERE KIDNAPPED AROUND HERE RECENTLY.

THIS MAG JUST CAME OUT TODAY.

...AND GIVEN THIS SITUATION, I JUST WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME THAT YOU'RE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE INCIDENTS

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. BUT BECAUSE I READ THAT...

SO WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY? YOU THINK WE'RE BEHIND THIS?

WOMAN'S WEEKLY

THERE'RE ROPE BURNS ON HER ARMS!

LATER! I'M OUTTA HERE.

!

ENOUGH FUCKING TALK!

KRAK

KER-THAKK

!

NOW I CAN TELL YOU WHAT'S REALLY UP!

...SO NOW YOU'LL BE HELPING US GET THE RANSOM MONEY, MISS ZOMBIE SHOP!

THAT LITTLE BRAT IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE OWNER OF A MAJOR SUPERMARKET CHAIN. SHE DIED WHILE WE WERE KIDNAPPING HER...

HE-HEY, WAIT, RISA. YOU'RE GONNA KILL 'ER?

SHUT THE FUCK UP, EIZO.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T GET SOMETHING OUT OF THIS...

PRETTY CRAZY, HUH? WELL, THAT'S ALL WE GOT. WE NEVER HAD ANY MONEY TO PAY YOU WITH IN THE FIRST PLACE!

OH, AND JUST SO YA KNOW, ALL WE GOT FOR MONEY IS 1,800 YEN.*

THAT, ELEVEN CIGARETTES, A CASE OF BEER WE STOLE, AND TWO SNACK-CAKES.

*ABOUT $15 US

YOU HELP US WITH WHAT WE NEED, AND YOU'LL GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!

...YOUR LIFE!

NOW THAT SHE'S HELPIN' US, WE SHOULD GO FOR AS MUCH AS WE CAN, RIGHT?

SO, RISA, HOW MUCH WE ASKIN' FOR THE RANSOM?

NO...

...WE'LL HAVE THE BRAT'S PARENTS MAKE US THE OFFER WHEN WE CALL 'EM

HEHEHEHE! DAMN, RISA, YOU'RE SO SMART!

IF THE PARENTS TELL US THE AMOUNT, IT'LL BE SOMETHING THEY CAN ACTUALLY PAY, SO THEY WON'T GET WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO PAY. THE CHANCE THAT THEY'LL CALL THE PIGS GOES WAY DOWN.

BUT WE STILL GOTTA PUSH THEM TO THE LIMIT, AND MAKE SURE THEY KNOW THAT THEIR DAUGHTER'S LIFE'S ON THE LINE.

ANYWAY, YOU WANNA GET OUTTA HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, RIGHT MISS ZOMBIE SHOP?

I KNOW.

YOU'D BETTER BE LISTENING, ZOMBIE SHOP...

THEN YOU GOTTA GET THE FUCKIN' BALL ROLLIN' AND DO YOUR CHANTING, OR WHATEVER YOU DO! WE NEED HER VOICE FOR THIS TO WORK!

SINCE ALL WE NEED IS HER LITTLE VOICE, WE TIED 'ER UP JUST LIKE WE TIED UP YOU.

THIS IS MY PLACE! OUUT TT!!

SHFFF

WH OO OO OO OA!

R-RISA! HELP!

ROA AGG HR!

Y-YOU BASTARD!

...

...

GOD-DAMN BAS-TARD!

THUNK

KA-THUNK

UR GH...

UR GH...

WA AAA AHH!

JUST DON'T THROW ME OUT THE WINDOW WHEN YOU'RE DONE, LIKE YOU DID WITH THE OTHER GUY...

GO GET 'ER, OLD MAN! GIVE THE BEAT-DOWN TO THAT KIDNAPPER!

NO!

ARG GHHH!

FWOOSHHH

YARRRGH! NOOO!

SLAM

GET IN THERE, SHITBAG!

WAAGGHH!

OUCH, RMX

ARGGHH! NOOO!

DISH

2000!

...

SHIT!

GET TO WORK! IF YOU DON'T START MOVING, I'LL RIP YOUR GUTS OUT! I MEAN IT!

NO OO!

ZOMB-BBBIEE SHOP!

YAR RR GG!

SPANG

BREATHE LIFE INTO DEATH, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT'S BREATH.

OH, SATAN, LORD OF DEMONS, HEAR MY PRAYER!

...

AAARR GGHH! MY FACE!

THIS GIRL'S CRAZY! I HAVE TO DO WHAT SHE SAYS, OR I'LL END UP LIKE HIM...

AGHH! THE PAIN!

HEE EE GH!

EXCEL-LENT! NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CALL AND--

MY GOD...

URG...

UGH... UGHNN...

HEE-YAA GH!

HEE-YAAA RGH!

GYA AHH H!!

YEEA-AAGHH! PLEASE, FORGIVE ME...

'S THAT BLOOD?

HEE-AAAA GGH!

?

?

!?

OH MY GOD!

KYAAAAA!

P-PLEASE, HELP ME!

THE HELL'S UP WITH HER?

?

KYA AAA AAA!

KYA AA!

KYAAAAA!

GET..

NO! YUCK! NO!!

H-HELP ME...

GET THE HELL...

...AWAY FROM ME!

KYAA!

KYAA!

KYAA!

HUH?

HHHsbayy

....
...
!!

SHIT...

DETECTIVE FUKUBE, ARE YOU SURE THAT THE MURDERER IS IN HERE?!

SHIT! IT'S THE PIGS!

THEY'RE HERE, ALL RIGHT. A COUPLE OF EYEWITNESS REPORTS WERE CALLED IN FROM THIS AREA

WE'LL HEAD IN AND ARREST WHOEVER THREW HER OUT!

YOU! I NEED YOUR HELP ON THIS! GET HER SOME FIRST AID AND CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THIS... I'M GONNA BE ON THE NEWS!

IN FACT, I'LL BET THAT IF HE DIDN'T KILL THEM HIMSELF, HE LET THEM DIE FROM MALNUTRITION!

THERE'S NO WAY THIS HOMELESS GUY COULD HAVE AFFORDED TO FEED AND CARE FOR HIS VICTIMS WHILE WAITING FOR SOMETHING LIKE RANSOM MONEY!

PLUS, HE WAS SPOTTED NEAR THE SCENE WHERE TWO CHILDREN WERE RECENTLY ABDUCTED!

THE SUSPECT... THIS MAN... HAS VICTIMIZED CHILDREN IN THE PAST.

203

AT ANY RATE, JUST SEARCH THESE ROOMS TOP-TO-BOTTOM!

KER CHAK

!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE JUST STANDING THERE. GET ME OUT OF HERE, NOW!

WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

REI- REIKO HIMEZONO!

I GUESS IT'S TRUE... YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

WELL, THE THREE CRIMINALS INVOLVED IN THIS CASE ARE ALL DEAD.

BUT THE FACT THAT WE KILLED ONE OF THEM WHEN WE SMACKED OUR PATROL CAR INTO HER COULD BE A BIG PROBLEM.

YOU'RE THE ONLY EYEWITNESS TO EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED IN THERE.

REI-REIKO, WHAT'S WITH THE PISSED-OFF LOOK?

WHOA! I'M NOT SAYING ANY-THING WILL "HAPPEN" TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE OUR ONLY WITNESS, AND I'M NOT SAYING YOU HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS!

I JUST NEED YOU TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOW-ING...

...
...
—

(1) I DIDN'T MAKE A SINGLE YEN OFF WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

(2) WHAT'S MORE, I WAS KICKED AROUND AND TIED UP.

OR (3) ON TOP OF ALL THAT, YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE UP-SKIRT PANTY-SHOT.

"JUST PICK ONE," HUH? I'M GUESSING IT'S "ALL OF THE ABOVE"!

BUT IT'D BE A WASTE TO TURN BACK, SINCE I'VE COME THIS FAR...

GEEZ, IT'S HOT!

ACT 19

...PURIPON LABORA-TORIES!

PURIPON

AND THE COMPANY THAT IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A SUPER-ROBOT TO DO ALL OF THOSE PESKY CHORES IS...

WE'VE FOUND A WAY TO RID YOUR HOUSEHOLD OF THOSE ANNOYING CHORES! COOKING, LAUNDRY, CLEANING... ALL A THING OF THE PAST!

JAPAN

BUT WHO IS THIS PERSON? WELL, FRIENDS, IT'S...

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? THEY'RE MOPPING! THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS, THIS PERSON IS CAREFULLY MOPPING UP THE LABS!

IT APPEARS THAT SOME-ONE IS WORKING IN HERE!

LET'S TAKE A QUICK PEEK INTO THE LABS. AH! WHAT'S THIS?

ZOOM

WOW! THIS CURRENT PURIPON IS ONLY A PROTOTYPE, SO IT CAN ONLY DO THE CLEANING, HOW-EVER...

...FOLLOW-ING FINAL DEVELOP-MENTS, WHICH ARE ALREADY ALMOST COMPLETE, SHE'LL BE ABLE TO COOK, SEW, AND EVEN DO LAUNDRY!

...OUR FAVORITE SUPER-ROBOT, PURIPON!

I will have finished mopping in precisely two minutes and thirty seconds.

THIS ALLOWS HER TO "LEARN" HOW TO TAILOR HER CLEANING SKILLS, THUS HONING THEM TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY!

The floor will dry faster following mopping if I turn on the air condi-tioner.

BUT PERHAPS HER MOST SPECTACULAR FEATURE IS HER "I LEARNED IT MYSELF" CAPABILITY!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A TWENTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD YOUNGUN' LIKE YERSELF COULD LEAD OUR DEVELOPMENT TEAM TO MAKING PURIPON!

WELL, HOLYYYY COW! THIS HERE IS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING, DR. SEGAWA!

WHY, I'M HAPPY AS A COW IN A GRASSY PASTURE THAT I ACTUALLY SUPPORTED YOU IN THIS PROJECT!

THANK YOU, SIR.

WE'RE WAITING TO SHOW YOU WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE FUTURE!

HEY, PURIPON! YOU MISSED A SPOT!

SQUEAK!

SQUEAK!

UM... SIR, YOU'RE GETTING OFF TOPIC.

I MEAN, ALL SHE DOES IS SIT AROUND SNACKING ON RICE CRACKERS AND MANJUU, MAKING A TOTAL MESS, PLUCKING OUT HER NOSE HAIRS, AND EVEN FARTING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...

GREAT! I MEAN, THIS IS REALLY GREAT! EVEN THOUGH SHE'S JUST A ROBOT, IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE HER ATTACKING HER WORK WITH TRUE FERVOR AND PASSION.

PLUS, SHE HAS A FEMININE GRACE THAT YOU JUST DON'T SEE IN REAL WOMEN NOWADAYS! THAT COW I CALL MY WIFE DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COMPARE TO THIS!

THWOOM

HOLY—!

SNAP

SPLUCK!

HN?

OH, ONE THING, SIR. COULD I BORROW YOUR CIGA-RETTE?

I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOME-THING I THINK YOU'LL LIKE.

DROP

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY CIGARETTES I HAD TO DROP ON THE FLOOR TO GET HER TO THIS STAGE.

BUT SHE HAS NOW, AS YOU CAN SEE, ADVANCED TO THE POINT THAT SHE CAN SNAP THEM OUT OF MIDAIR BEFORE THEY HIT THE GROUND!

THIS, MY FAIR COLLEAGUES, IS A PRODUCT OF THE "I LEARNED IT MYSELF" TECHNOLOGY.

I appreciate yaur cooperation in maintaining an efficient work environment.

HAHAHA! NO, NO, NO... SHE DOESN'T THINK THAT FAR AHEAD. THAT WOULD BE A SELF-MOTIVATED HUMAN REACTION.

SHE MOVES THE WAY SHE DOES ONLY IN THE NAME OF EFFICIENCY! IF SHE FINISHES THE JOB SHE'S WORKING ON FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY, SHE CAN MOVE RIGHT ALONG TO THE NEXT JOB, AND THUS SAVE TIME AND ENERGY!

HOLD ON A SECOND...

PERHAPS SHE SNATCHED IT BEFORE IT HIT THE GROUND SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO IN-CREASE THE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT SHE'LL HAVE TO DO?

!

You are deemed to be inter-fering with my duties!

LET'S SEE THAT AGAIN! HOW DOES SHE HANDLE THREE AT ONCE?

HAHAHA! THAT WAS AMAZING!

FLING

GWA RRR GH!

MY GOD!

HOLY —!

...and have come to a conclusion regarding what must be done.

...I have analyzed statistics regarding the behavior of the employees who work in this laboratory...

While it does require a bit of my time and effort to clean up corpses and the mess involved in creating them...

UWA?!

I appreciate your cooperation in maintaining an efficient work environment.

P-PURIPON! WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, PURIPON?!

DR. SEGAWA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

...my workload will significantly decrease.

Given your behavior thus far, if I kill all of you...

PURIPON

THAT LOOKS LIKE THAT "PURIPON" ROBOT I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT!

THAT THING HAS GOT TO BE REALLY EXPENSIVE. BUT IT'D BE REALLY COOL TO HAVE.

I HATE HAVING TO CLEAN UP ALL THE TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S SO HOT OUTSIDE! I GET HOME AND JUST WANT TO LAY AROUND!

MAYBE IF I TAKE A LOOK AT IT AND GET A FEEL FOR THE PRICE, IT'LL MAKE ME WANT TO GO OUT AND LOOK FOR MORE WORK SO I CAN BUY ONE.

OH, BY THE WAY, READERS, TODAY IS REIKO'S DAY OFF.

UGHH...

THAT'S THE SMELL OF BLOOD!

HM?
THAT SMELL...
UHH
UHH

=HAH=

=HAH=

=HAH=

=RING=

I'VE GOTTA CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!

=RING= =RING=

=COFF=

=COFF= =CLORPH=

I THINK I MIGHT BE THE LAST ONE ALIVE IN HERE... I'M HIDING IN ONE OF THE ROOMS IN THE LAB...

Y-YOU'VE GOT A CELL PHONE, RIGHT? PLEASE, PLEASE CALL THE COPS OR SOMETHING! HURRY!

SHE... SHE CUT THE PHONE LINES SO I CAN'T CALL OUT... ONLY THE INTER-OFFICE EXTENSIONS WORK!

HELLO?

THAT ROBOT, PURIPON, IS KILLING EVERYONE IN HERE!

WHAT? WHO IS THIS? WHATEVER... LOOK, SOMEONE PLEASE HELP US!

SLAM!

SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!

I SWEAR, EVERY PERSON I MEET IS WORTHLESS!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE ONE ON ME.

I TOOK TODAY OFF, SO I THOUGHT I'D LEAVE IT AT HOME SO I COULD RELAX...

-KA-CHAK-

I PICKED THE WRONG DAY TO COME IN HERE...

BUT WHY ON EARTH WOULD A ROBOT DO THIS?

!

STOP! DON'T EVEN MOVE!

IF YOU DO, YOU MIGHT KICK UP SOME DUST OR SOMETHING!

IF YOU MAKE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MESS AROUND HERE, YOU'LL BE DEAD BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT HIT YOU!

THE ONLY REASON THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN KILLED IS BECAUSE I'M JUST THE SECRETARY OF THE SPONSOR OF THIS RESEARCH. I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING TO THE LAB.

PURIPON ONLY ATTACKS PEOPLE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A MESS IN THE LABORATORY.

...IT'S EASIER TO CLEAN UP CORPSES THAN TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH LIVING PEOPLE CONTINUALLY MAKING MESSES.

SHE'S REALIZED THAT THE DEAD DON'T MAKE MESSES. NOW, BY HER CALCULATIONS...

ALL THIS IS A RESULT OF PURIPON'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF EFFICIENCY IN HER CLEANING.

BUT...

TRUST ME, I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING.

-HACK-

-COFF-

WE NEED TO CALL THE POLICE AND GET AN AMBULANCE HERE AS SOON AS WE CAN.

SO, UMMM, WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE? THE DOOR'S RIGHT THERE. LET'S GET GOING.

SHE'S CUT THE PHONE LINES, AND MADE IT SO NONE OF THE DOORS IN THE LAB CAN BE OPENED FROM THE INSIDE.

THAT'S BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO CATCH ONE OF THE LABORATORY WORKERS, DR. SEGAWA, WHO'S HIDING SOMEWHERE IN ONE OF THE ROOMS OF THE LAB RIGHT NOW.

...PURIPON HAS TAKEN PRECAUTIONS TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE CAN ESCAPE FROM THE LABORATORY

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?!

IF YOU DID THAT, THERE'D BE BROKEN GLASS SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE! THAT WOULD THROW PURIPON INTO A KILLING RAGE!

ALL RIGHT, GEEZ! THEN HOW ABOUT WE JUST OPEN A WINDOW AND GET OUT THAT WAY?!

WELL, THAT GLASS IS SUPER-THIN. WE COULD JUST SMASH THROUGH IT AND--

Y-YEAH.. SOUNDS GOOD...

WHATEVER. WE CAN OPEN A SECOND-FLOOR WINDOW AND JUMP OUT.

THE ONLY PART OF THIS RESEARCH CENTER THAT HAS WINDOWS THAT WORK IS THE SECOND-FLOOR.

THE CEILING-TO-FLOOR WINDOWS HERE ON THE FIRST FLOOR ARE JUST TO LET LIGHT IN, AND CAN'T BE OPENED.

THE "STOP WORD"?

THERE'S APPARENTLY A WORD THAT WILL MAKE PURIPON COMPLETELY STOP IN HER TRACKS FOR ABOUT TEN SECONDS.

IT WAS ONE OF THE FAILSAFES INSTALLED IN PURIPON DURING HER DEVELOP-MENT.

WHAT REALLY SUCKS, THOUGH...

...IS THAT WE COULD PUT AN END TO THIS IN A SECOND IF WE JUST KNEW THE STOP WORD..

WELL THE TECHNICIAN WHO INSTALLED IT WOULD HAVE HAD TO KNOW IT TO PROGRAM IT!

BUT THAT GUY...

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS NO ONE KNOWS THIS WORD?!

WELL, JUST GO TO THE SECOND FLOOR AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT THAT SEGAWA GUY YOU MENTIONED? HE MIGHT KNOW WHAT THE STOP WORD IS.

HIS HEAD WAS SPLIT IN TWO BEFORE HE KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON.

OKAY. I SEE...

IF HE KNEW THE STOP WORD, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE TIME TO SAY IT.

I DOUBT IT.

THE ONLY THINGS HE SAID AS HE RAN OFF CRYING WERE "HELP," "WE'RE GONNA DIE," AND "MOMMY!"

AH!

SLIP

CRACK

THUD

ドゴォ

!

KYAAA!

NO!

UM... I'M SORRY?

PLEASE! DON'T! PLEASE!

NO! HELLLPP!

NOO OOO OOO OO!

NOW'S MY ONLY CHANCE! PURIPON'S PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SECRETARY!

I DON'T CARE IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE. I'M GONNA GET OUT OF HERE!

KYA AAAA AAAA!

?

SNIFFLE

WHO'S THAT GIRL?!

IS SHE STUPID OR SOME-THING?

SHNFFF

WHOOP-SY! ♥

SHOOT! LOOKS LIKE I DROPPED SOME GARBAGE! ♥

:SNIFFLE:

...

...

...

:HONK:

:SU UUE

RUN! GET OUTTA HERE!

WHAT'RE YOU—

KUH?!

OH, SATAN, LORD OF DEMONS, HEAR MY PRAYER!

BREATHE LIFE IN TO DEATH, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT'S BREATH.

WHAT THE HELL'S SHE DOING?

DO-GYA AAA AA!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?! THAT GUY WAS DEAD! WHY'D HE JUST—

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

COME ON! WE'LL JUST ESCAPE THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, LIKE WE SHOULD HAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT'LL BE SAFER THAN JUMPING THROUGH THE WINDOW AT THIS POINT!

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A DAY OFF SOME OTHER TIME. AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, I USUALLY GET PAID FOR THIS!

GRUNCH

GRUNCH

GRUNCH

KRONCH
GRONCH

CHOMP
CHOMP

KER-SNAP

JESUS! WE'RE DEAD!

DANG IT! SHE DETACHED HER OWN ARM TO GET AWAY.

ALL IT'D TAKE IS THE STOP WORD AND..

IF THE WORD WAS JUST "FREEZE" OR SOMETHING, SOMEONE WOULD HAVE ALREADY SAID IT BY NOW!

CHRIST, WOULD YOU PLEASE QUIT BRINGING THAT UP?! WE DON'T KNOW IT, SO TALKING ABOUT IT WON'T HELP!

BZZZZT"

ビリ"

...

...

...

...

...

...

Y-YOU GOTTA BE JOKING!

NO WAY...

WOW...

HAH AHA HAH!

I'M JUST GONNA WALTZ ON OUT THE FRONT DOOR!

ANYWAY, I NOW KNOW THE STOP WORD! THERE'S NO REASON TO HIDE IN HERE ANYMORE!

EHEH

HEH HEH...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS THAT SIMPLE! I GUESS IT'S SOMETIMES HARD TO SEE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

WHATEVER! WE CAN JUST SAY IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN IF WE NEED TO!

WE DID IT!! YEAH! WE'RE SOOO LUCKY! ♥

IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO BE CELEBRATING! THE STOP WORD ONLY LASTS FOR TEN SECONDS, RIGHT?

SHE'S BACK!

READY ...

SET...

CRAK

TTS

TTS

FREEZE!

...DIDN'T WORK?!

IT...

RUNNING'S ALL WE CAN DO NOW! LET'S GO!

DAMN! I WAS FINALLY FEELING IN CONTROL!

LOOK!

HER EARS! IT LOOKS LIKE SHE TORE THEM OUT HERSELF!

WE GOTTA GET GOING! COME ON!

UGH!

DON'T TOUCH ME, ASS-HOLE!

!

YOU GUYS ALREADY FOUND OUT HOW TO STOP HER! WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID?

BUT DO AS YOU WISH.

I'M IMPRESSED THE TWO OF YOU MANAGED TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.

WELL THEN, PURIPON.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM REALLY UPSET THAT YOU'D TURN AGAINST ME EVEN THOUGH I CREATED YOU.

COME ON, PURIPON, LET'S STOP THIS NONSENSE.

AND I THINK THAT YOU'RE TAKING THINGS A LITTLE TOO FAR.

FREEZE!

UGG LOR RRP HH!

!

THIS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME TO CLEAN UP, DON'T YOU THINK, BITCH?!

FLIP

UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE I BROKE THE GLASS.

COME ON!

BRING IT... BRING IT...

PLUNGE
SNAP
KER-THUD

TWIST

TWIST

GURG

GLUG

GURG

I KNOW, I KNOW!

DO IT! TURN IT ON!

SHRIII

BOOM

WHO OAA!

HAH

HAH

I THINK I SPRAINED MY ANKLE...

CAN YOU STAND?

I'M FINE. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT...

OW! OWOW- OUCH!

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW HELPFUL IT'D BE TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE AROUND THE HOUSE?

COME ON, DADDY, PLEASE! I WANNA SEE THE PURIPON NOW!

HELLO, THERE. WE HEARD THAT WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEW PURIPON HERE. CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THE RECEPTIONIST IS?

UH-OH...

AND ANYWAY, YOU THINK THAT POOR-ASS-LOOKIN' MORONS LIKE YOU COULD AFFORD THIS?

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'VE GOT THAT KINDA MONEY YOU LOOK LIKE THE WELFARE POSTER FAMILY!

LAY OFF! YOU'RE TAKING THIS TOO FAR!

URG!

SMACK

TO HELL WITH PURIPON! IS CLEANING UP AFTER YOURSELF REALLY THAT HARD?!

WAAAAH!

STOP! WAIT! THERE'S NO NEED TO—

:HAH:

:HAH:

I WONDER IF ANYONE CALLED THAT AMBU-LANCE YET...

ACT 20

REIKO VS ASTRO ZOMBIE

UUN NNN PH!

NNN NNN PH!

NN NNN PH!

EAT IT.

BU-HA!

A-BMMPH!

EAT IT OR I'LL CUT YOUR FUCKIN' THROAT!

JUST.. A LITTLE BIT.. LOOSER..!

YOU CREATED THIS SHIT-FILLED SAUSAGE! HAVEN'T HAD SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, HUH?!

CHEW IT! I SAID CHEW! C'MON NOW, CHEW!

OH MY GOD...

=K-KOFF=

=KOFF=

NO OO OO!

HEY YOU!

STOP!

!!

KER-CHAKK

KYAA AAAA AAH!

S-SOME-BODY! PLEASE! HELP ME!

I BET YOU WERE FEELING PRETTY HOPEFUL A FEW SECONDS AGO, THINKIN' YOU COULD ESCAPE, RIGHT?!

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I MADE SURE YOUR ROPE WAS LOOSE WHEN I TIED IT.

KHEE HEE HEE...

THERE WERE ONLY THE THREE OF YOU AT THE CAMP-GROUNDS TONIGHT.

TO THINK, YOU ALL SEEMED SO HAPPY EARLIER TODAY. WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID? "IT'S LIKE THIS PLACE IS HERE JUST FOR US!" REMEMBER SAYING THAT?

IT SAID THAT THREE THINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR A REAL SACRIFICE...

FEAR, PAIN...

ANYWAY, CUTE THING, I BOUGHT THIS BOOK ON WITCHCRAFT THE OTHER DAY.

..AND DESPAIR.

HOWEVER, WE WERE UNABLE TO GET TESTIMONY OF ANY KIN FROM THE MANAGER OF THE CAMPGROUNDS, FUSAE KANNAZUKI, WHO WAS THIRTY-TWO AT THE TIME.

WHEN THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED, WE EXAMINED MS. KANNAZUKI'S ROOM, BUT FOUND NOTHING.

UNABLE TO CLASSIFY THIS CASE AS A CRIME OR EVEN AS AN INCIDENT WARRANTING FURTHER INVESTIGATION, WE LET MS. KANNAZUKI CONTINUE TO MANAGE THE CAMPGROUNDS.

WE'RE WONDERING ...HAVE YOU EVER STAYED AT THOSE CAMP-GROUNDS BEFORE?

WE STILL HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF HER WHERE-ABOUTS.

FUSAE KANNAZUKI DISAPPEARED FROM THE CAMPGROUNDS WITHOUT A TRACE.

BUT, THREE YEARS BACK, DURING THE SUMMER...

MIZUE KIRISAWA - Age 29
Supervisor of the Shiraike Middle School Art Club.

I REALLY NEED TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL AND SUPERVISE THE STUDENTS. THERE ARE CLUB ACTIVITIES GOING ON RIGHT NOW.

IS THERE SOMETHING LINKING ME TO THAT KANNAZUKI PERSON OR SOMETHING?

I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING AROUND UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY SINCE I WAS A HIGH-SCHOOLER, DRAWING THE DIFFERENT LANDSCAPES AND COUNTRY-SIDES OF JAPAN.

WELL, SIR, THAT'S ACTUALLY HARD FOR ME TO REMEMBER.

WE'RE TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN ABOUT OUR ONLY SUSPECT, FUSAE KANNAZUKI. AFTER THREE YEARS, WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY LEADS REGARDING HER WHEREABOUTS.

AMONGST THE RUBBLE AND DEBRIS, HUMAN BONES WERE UNEARTHED. A FORENSIC INSPECTION OF THE BONES HAS LED US TO BELIEVE THEIR OWNERS WERE MURDERED. NOW WE'VE GOT A HOMICIDE CASE ON OUR HANDS.

WELL, THE OTHER DAY THERE WAS A SMALL LANDSLIDE DUE TO EROSION AT THE KANNAZUKI CAMP-GROUNDS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION OF YOUR STAY THERE THREE YEARS AGO, IT'D REALLY HELP US.

WE KNOW THAT YOU WERE THERE.

BUT BACK TO WHY YOU'RE HERE. . WHEN WE LOOKED OVER THE KANNAZUKI CAMPGROUNDS GUEST REGISTER, WE FOUND YOUR NAME LISTED ON THE VERY LAST PAGE.

I MEAN, YOU JUST UP AND ASK SOMEONE, "HEY! DO YOU REMEMBER THIS ONE THING FROM THREE YEARS AGO?" YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW...

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.

WELL, LET'S THINK THEN. I KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE ART CLUB'S SUPERVISOR...

...SO, FOR EXAMPLE...

...IS IT POSSIBLE THAT MAYBE YOU TOOK SOME STUDENTS THERE FOR AN OVERNIGHT OUTING?"

"THOUGH THIS MIGHT SEEM STRANGE STATESIDE, OVERNIGHT SCHOOL CLUB GATHERINGS ARE ACTUALLY QUITE COMMONPLACE IN JAPAN, BUT MORE OFTEN AMONGST HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEVEL STUDENTS.

WELL, THAT DIDN'T TURN UP MUCH.

"I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING SPECIAL OR ODD ABOUT KANNAZUKI, OR WHOEVER IT WAS". THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE GOT OUT OF HER.

"I WAS ALONE"... "I WENT THERE TO DO SOME SKETCHING"...

UM, NO THANKS. THANK YOU THOUGH. I'LL WALK.

MISS, IF YOU'D LIKE, WE CAN TAKE YOU BACK.

THE ONLY THING WE HAVE RIGHT NOW IS A PATROL CRUISER, THOUGH.

I MEAN, I DON'T THINK SHE HAS ANYTHING USEFUL TO TELL US ABOUT KANNAZUKI.

MAYBE. IT'D BE NOTHING BUT A FORMALITY, THOUGH, REALLY.

WELL THEN, SIR, ARE YOU GOING TO CALL HER BACK FOR MORE QUESTION-ING?

I MEAN, WHAT WOULD SOMEONE GAIN BY KILLING SOME LADY THAT RUNS A BACKWATER CAMPGROUND?

BUT WHAT WOULD SHE HAVE BEEN MAD ABOUT? THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO MOTIVE OR EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH A THEORY.

WELL THEN, SIR, MAYBE SHE GOT INTO SOME TROUBLE WITH KANNAZUKI, GOT MAD, AND KILLED HER OR SOMETHING, I MEAN, COULDN'T YOU QUESTION HER WITH THAT PRETENSE?

I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING...

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SAY ANYTHING TO ANYONE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED!

THAT SUMMER THREE YEARS AGO...

SHOOT!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, EMIKO?!

SWAT

ARE YOU SERIOUS, SENSEI?! YOU'RE GONNA TAKE US CAMPING?

THAT'S THE LAMEST NAME EVER...

CAN WE SWIM? IS THE CAMPGROUND NEAR THE OCEAN?!

WE'LL CALL THIS EVENT "THE SHIRAIKE MIDDLE SCHOOL ART CLUB LET'S GO-GO-GO CAMPFEST"!

IT'S JUST A SMALL WAY OF SAYING THANKS FOR TAKING ART CLUB SO SERIOUSLY AND WORKING SO HARD!

REIKO, WHAT IF SOME GUY LIKE JACKSON ATTACKS US AT NIGHT?! *HE-HE-HE!*

WELL, YOU MIGHT WANNA PACK YOUR SWIMSUITS, OKAY?

UH... YOU MEAN JASON?

Kamizuki Campgrounds Cabin 1

...SUCKS REALLY BAD!

LAST ONE IN...

HOT HOT HOT!

THAT'S HOT!

HOT SAND!

HOT SAND!

OW! MY LEG CRAMPED UP!

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T DROWN, 'CAUSE THEY'LL HOLD ME RESPON-SIBLE!

YA-HOO OOO!

THE TOILET'S OVER THERE.

SENSEI, WHERE YOU GOIN'?

I WANT TO GET THE ANNOYING STUFF LIKE THAT OUT OF THE WAY SO I CAN START DRINKIN'!

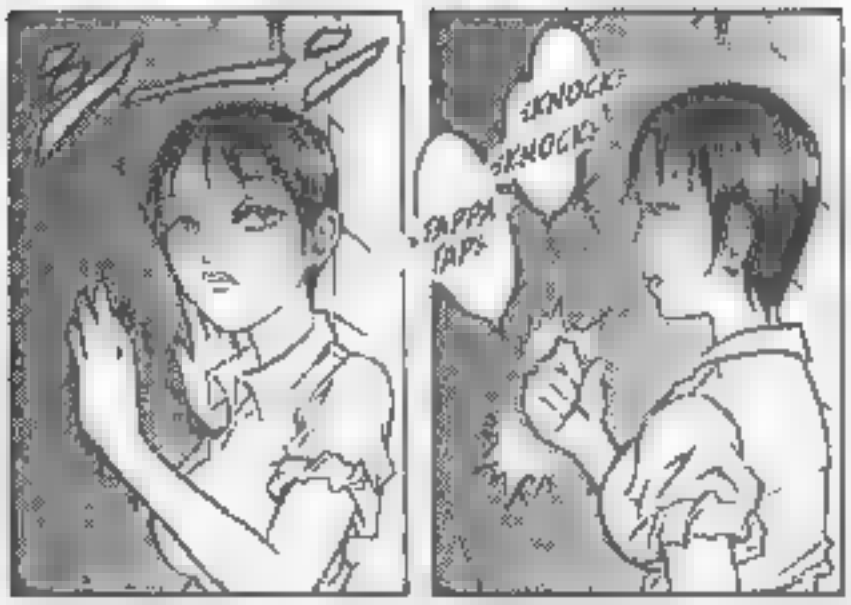
I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT TIME WE HAVE TO CHECK OUT TOMORROW.

I'M SO GLAD WE COULD ALL MAKE IT!

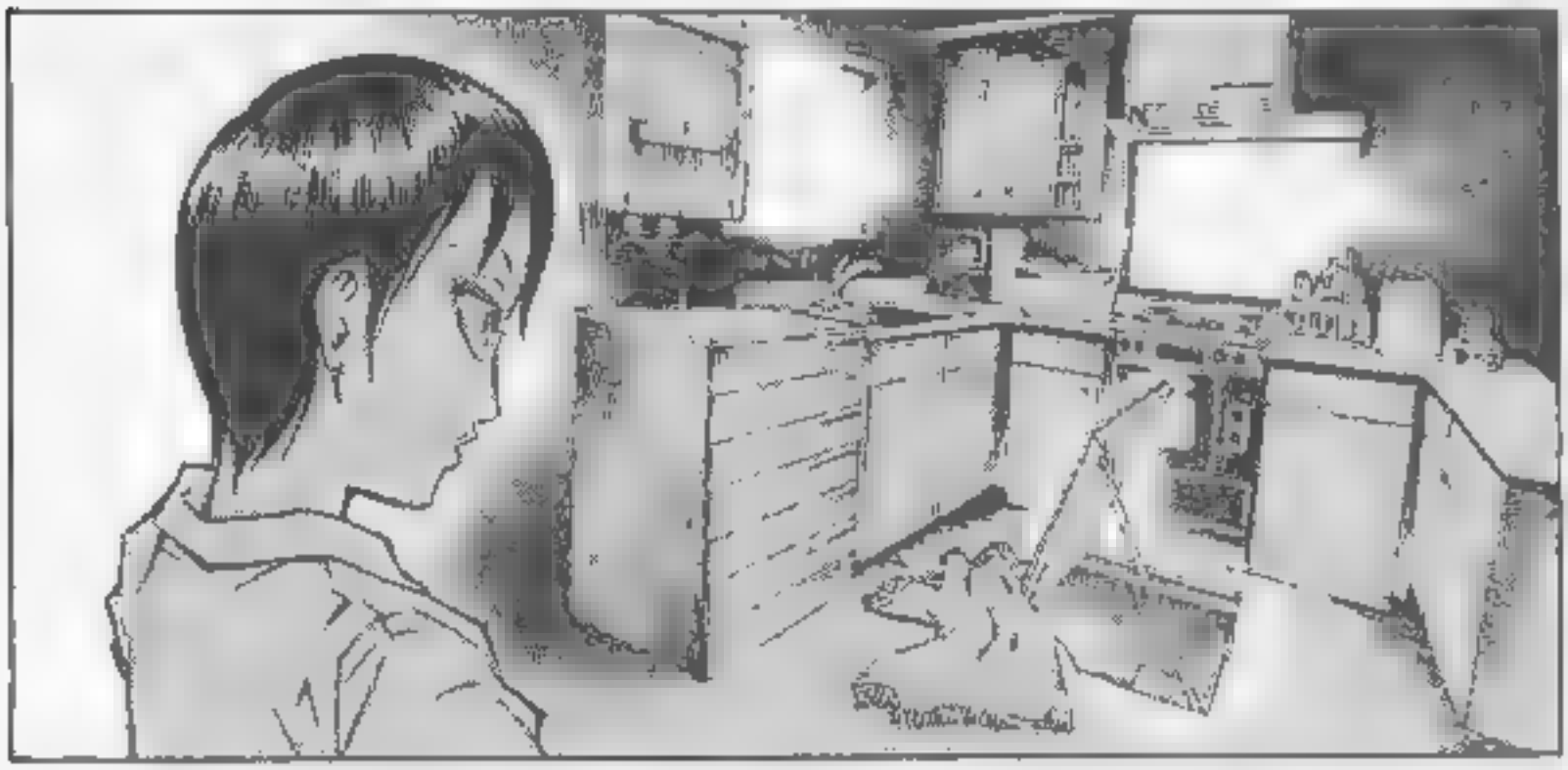
AND WE'RE LIKE THE ONLY PEOPLE HERE!

SIZZLE

I KNOW, I KNOW! IT'S LIKE WE RENTED THIS WHOLE PLACE OUT OR SOMETHING!


KNOCK!
KNOCK!
TAP!
TAP!

ANYONE HERE?



HMM...

I WONDER IF THE MANAGER'S DOWN-STAIRS?

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT TIME WE HAVE TO CHECK OU--

MS. MANAGER, ARE YOU HERE? IT'S KIRISAWA..

UM, I'M COMING DOWN!

WHA—

WHAT THE—?!

KER-THACK!

IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE GONNA BE PART OF A SACRIFICE TO HELP ME.

?" ?"

AGH...

UGH...

...BUT IF I CAN SACRIFICE SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY SIX BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, I CAN LOOK JUST LIKE YOU!

I KNOW THAT IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR BEAUTIFUL GIRLS LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND...

I WAS GONNA WAIT FOR Y'ALL TO HEAD TO BED FIRST.

WELL... THIS IS ALL HAPPENING A LITTLE FASTER THAN I HAD HOPED...

Fifty

I KNOW THIS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT SAID IN THE BOOK OF WITCHCRAFT THAT I BOUGHT FROM THAT INFOMERCIAL!

I KNOW THIS WILL WORK! AFTER I KILLED THE FIRST THREE, I NOTICED MY FACE GETTING SLIMMER, AND MY SKIN WAS SO SMOOTH! NO MISTAKE... IT WORKS!

THE ONLY WAY FOR ME TO BECOME BEAUTIFUL AND HAVE MEN WANT TO BE WITH ME IS TO KEEP KILLING!

Y- YOU'RE ...

YOU'RE INSANE...

HOW MANY GUYS HAVE ASKED YOU OUT OR WANTED YOU?! HUH? HOW MANY? ANSWER ME, DAMMIT!

UGH...

BUT I KNOW THAT THERE'S NO WAY A GIRL LIKE YOU CAN UNDER-STAND WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH!

ANYWAY, THOUGH, I'M GONNA MAKE YOU FEEL DESPAIR LIKE YOU'VE NEVER FELT, AND THEN I'M GONNA BUTCHER YOU!

NO! I'M UNHAPPY, NOT INSANE. THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE. HOW DARE YOU CONFUSE THE TWO.

OKAY... NEXT! NEXT IT'S REIKO'S TURN TO TELL US WHO SHE THINKS IS HOT!

...THE PURER THAT LOVE IS, THE HARDER IT IS TO FIND. TRUE, TRUE LOVE IS LIKE THE RAREST THING EVER...

OH... TALKING ABOUT THIS IS MAKING ME CRY!

WHAT? ME?

SO, LIKE, I GUESS I'VE FOUND OUT THAT...

!

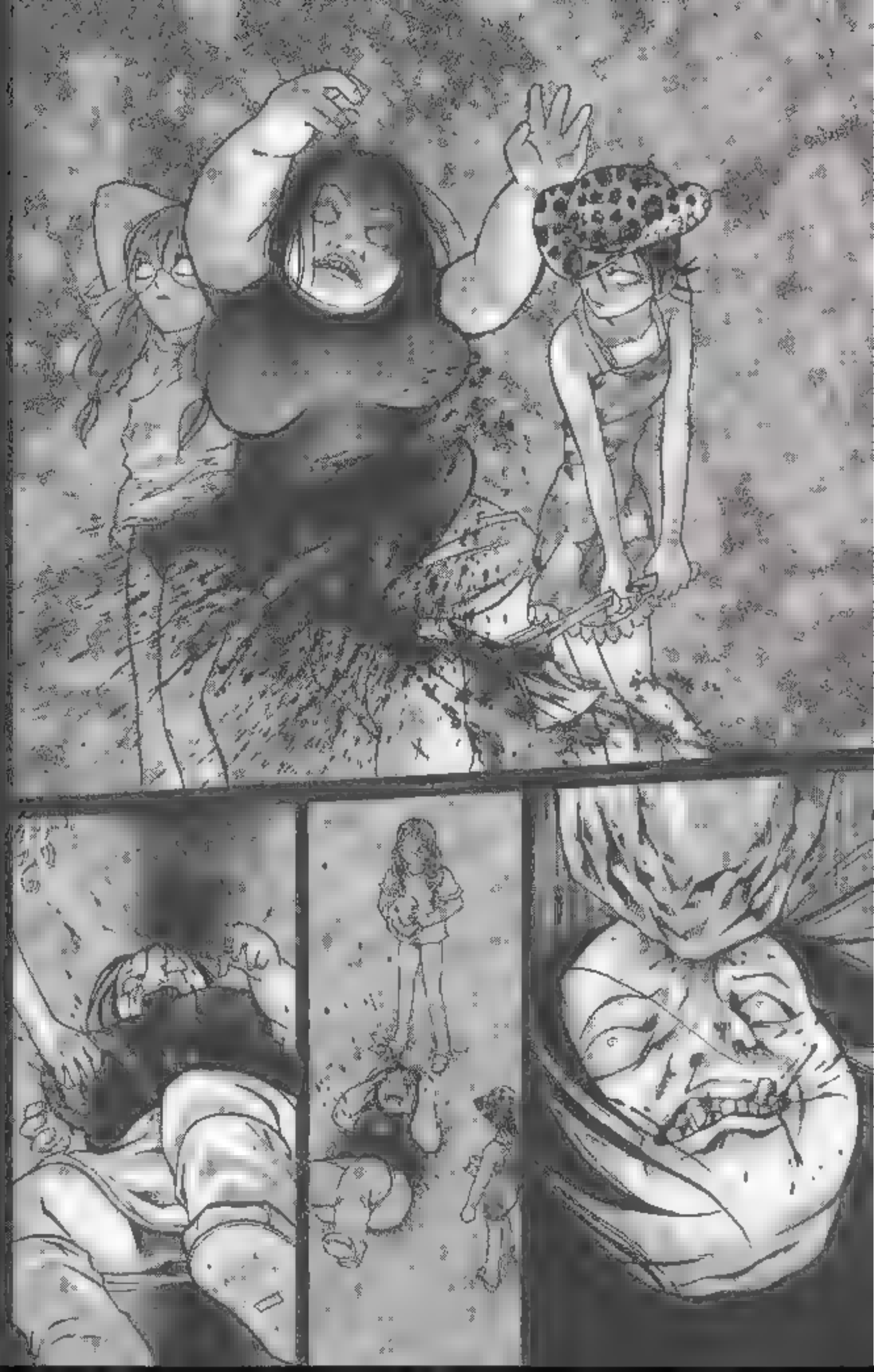
A-HAHAHA! SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS SOOO REIKO!

I GUESS IF IT WAS ANYONE, IT'D BE MYSELF. ♥

WHAT'S WRONG, REIKO?

WE WILL BE... BORROWING YOUR BODIES FOR A WHILE...

WE WILL BE... BORROWING YOUR BODIES FOR A WHILE...



I HAVE NO IDEA HOW OR WHY, THE GIRLS COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING SO BRUTAL AND MURDEROUS

EVEN IF, THEY, DID SAVE MY, LIFE, WHAT THEY, DID, WENT, FAR BEYOND ANYTHING YOU COULD, EVEN CONSIDER, TO BE SELF-DEFENSE

I PASSED, OUT BEFORE, THEIR CAVALCADE OF TORTURE AND CARNAGE FINISHED

AND, WHEN I AWOKE, I WAS COMPLETELY UNTIED, AND, THERE WASNT, A BODY, OR EVEN A DROP, OF BLOOD, TO BE FOUND

WHO CARES? WE PAID ALL THE MONEY TO STAY THERE UP FRONT.
BESIDES, THAT LADY WAS WEIRD! MEETING HER ONCE WHEN WE CHECKED IN WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
SERIOUSLY, WHERE'D THAT MANAGER LADY GO? WE COULDN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE...

IT'S ABOUT THIS NORMAL OLD LADY WHO SPENDS THE WHOLE MOVIE IN A DESPERATE FIGHT FOR HER LIFE AGAINST A CYBORG NAMED "MISERY."
WHAT'S THAT? WHAT KIND OF MOVIE IS IT?
DIDN'T SHE REMIND YOU GUYS OF THE LADY FROM THE MOVIE *MISERY*?

KIRISAWA-SENSEI!

SENSEI!

YEAH! MOST KIDS WHO GRADUATE FROM HERE NOWADAYS NEVER COME BACK TO SEE US, EVEN JUST TO SAY "HI."

REALLY? THAT'S NICE TO HEAR.

I HOPE THE POLICE QUESTION-ING WENT OKAY.

OH, SORRY! WHAT'S UP?

BUT WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU IS THAT YOU HAVE A VISITOR WHO HASN'T BEEN BY TO SEE YOU IN A WHILE.

HOW'VE YA BEEN?

SENSEI!

THIS PLACE IS JUST LIKE I REMEMBER IT

JUST BEING HERE MAKES ME WANT TO GRAB A BRUSH AND PAINTS AND START PAINTING.

WOW! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!

ART ROOM

AND I..

I DID THIS SKETCH!

HEY!

REIKO HIMEZONO COMES AND VISITS ME EVERY SUMMER VACATION, JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK

..FEEL VOMIT REELING IN MY STOMACH EVERY TIME I LOOK AT REIKO HIMEZONO'S FACE..

..AND CONTINUE TO PRAY THAT SHE'LL LEAVE ME ALONE, AND NEVER COME BACK!

ACT 21

.. COME AND PLAY WITH YOUR BIG SISTER...

MIDORI...

COME AND PLAY WITH ME!

C'MON, MIDORI!

LET'S PLAY TOGETHER SOME MORE!

C'MON, MIDORI...

I SAID IT'S PLAY-TIME, MIDORI!

KYAAAAA!

ACT 21

EVERY DOCTOR THAT HAS STUDIED HER SAID THERE WAS NO CHANCE, AND GAVE HER UP AS HOPELESS!

DR. AKIYAMA! IT'S MIDORI! SHE'S AWAKE!

THEY SAID SHE'D NEVER WAKE FROM HER COMA, BUT SHE JUST DID!

...FROM A TEN-YEAR COMA!

BUT SHE'S AWAKE! SHE'S BACK.

AND NOW IT'S UP TO US TO FILL IN THAT TEN-YEAR BLANK IN HER SOUL...

THE BODY OF A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD...

...WITH THE MIND OF A SIX-YEAR-OLD.

DR. AKIYAMA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE PRESS? THIS'D BE A HUGE SCOOP FOR THEM.

NO ONE IS TO SAY A WORD ABOUT THIS TO ANYONE.

THIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF MIDORI'S SAFETY.

IT'S STILL BEEN ONLY ABOUT HALF A YEAR SINCE THE SHIRAIKE SERIAL SLAYINGS THAT LEFT TWENTY-NINE LITTLE GIRLS DEAD WAS SOLVED.

AND THE KILLER DIED BEFORE THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES COULD SEE ANY KIND OF CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT EXACTED ON HER.

THINK ABOUT IT... THE FAMILIES OF TWENTY-NINE LITTLE GIRLS, WITH ALL THAT PENT-UP RAGE AND NOWHERE TO VENT IT!

IF THOSE BEREAVED FAMILIES WERE TO FIND OUT THAT THE SISTER OF THE PERSON WHO SLAUGHTERED THEIR CHILDREN WAS IN THIS TOWN...

WELL, THEY'D BE READY TO TAKE OUT ALL OF THEIR ANGER ON MIDORI.

AND LITTLE MIDORI'S HEART...

...IS STILL ONLY SIX YEARS-OLD

SO I HAVE ALL OF THIS ANGER AND HATRED FOR HER, AND NOWHERE TO PUT IT. IT FEELS LIKE IT COULD EXPLODE OUT OF ME.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO... SHE'S DEAD.

I STILL FEEL ONLY HATRED FOR THE GIRL WHO COMMITTED THESE CRIMES.

I HAVE EVEN RUN INTO GIRLS A COUPLE OF TIMES ON THE STREET THAT LOOK LIKE HER, AND IT TAKES ALL OF MY STRENGTH TO RESTRAIN MYSELF FROM GRABBING THEM AND TAKING OUT MY ANGER ON THEM.

I FOUND A PICTURE OF THE KILLER ONLINE ONCE.

THAT IMAGE OF HER FACE IS NOW STUCK IN MY MIND, AS IF IT WERE BURNT INTO THE BACK OF MY EYELIDS.

Mother of three-year-old who was slain in the serial killings. Ms."T.K."– Age 28 – Waitress

TONIGHT, WE'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN US, AS WE HEAR TESTIMONIES FROM THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LOVED ONES...

...IN AN ATTEMPT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PERSON BEHIND THE KILLER.

HUNTING "GIRL A"

IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE THE END OF THE SHIRAIKE SERIAL SLAYINGS OF TWENTY-NINE YOUNG SOULS...

REPORTER KAMIKUI, IN AN ATTEMPT TO INDEPENDENTLY GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT "GIRL A," GOT TOO CLOSE...

...AND, ALONG WITH HER DAUGHTER, WAS MURDERED.

MURDERED:
JUNKO KAMIKUI (31)
and her daughter
SEIKO (4)

IN ADDITION TO THE UNIMAGINABLY BRUTAL DEATHS OF TWENTY-NINE YOUNG GIRLS, SEVERAL ADULTS ALSO LOST THEIR LIVES TO THE CRUEL INTENT OF THE KILLER.

ONE OF THOSE ADULTS WAS A TV REPORTER THAT MANY OF OUR VIEWERS OUT THERE WILL RECOGNIZE, MS. JUNKO KAMIKUI.

IT'S REPORTED THAT SHE LOVED HER YOUNGER SISTER VERY MUCH...

"GIRL A" HAD A SISTER, TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN SHE.

...BUT THAT HER YOUNGER SISTER FELL DOWN THE STAIRS AT AGE SIX, AND SUFFERED SEVERED BRAIN DAMAGE AS A RESULT

WE MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER ALL OF THE LEADS THAT REPORTER KAMIKUI GATHERED BEFORE HER DEATH.

AS A RESULT, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFIRM THE IDENTITY OF "GIRL A."

UPON ENTERING THE HOSPITAL IN A COMA, EXTENSIVE TESTS WERE RUN ON THE YOUNGER SISTER, AND IT WAS FOUND THAT "GIRL A" HAD BEEN ABUSING HER FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

IT WAS LATER DISCOVERED THAT SHE DIDN'T FALL, BUT WAS ACTUALLY PUSHED BY HER SISTER, "GIRL A," WHO WAS EIGHT AT THE TIME.

BECAUSE OF HER SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE, THE SISTER OF "GIRL A" HAS BEEN IN A VEGETATIVE STATE EVER SINCE.

IN ESSENCE, SHE DEVELOPED WHAT IS KNOWN AS A "PERSECUTION COMPLEX." SHE CONVINCED NOT ONLY HERSELF, BUT THOSE AROUND HER, THAT HER LITTLE SISTER DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT, AND THAT PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR HER, THE OLDER SISTER

THE PARENTS OF THE GIRLS HAD TRIED TO DISCIPLINE "A" FROM AN EARLY AGE, BUT...

..."A" WAS QUITE DELUSIONAL, AND HAD CONDITIONED HERSELF TO BELIEVE THAT SHE WAS THE VICTIM, NOT THE VICTIMIZER.

THIS IS WHEN "A" BEGAN HER KIDNAPPING AND SLAYING SPREE.

WHEN "A" BECAME A HIGH-SCHOOLER, HER PARENTS MOVED OVERSEAS BECAUSE OF WORK.

USING CANDY AND TOYS AS LURES, "A" WOULD TALK TO LITTLE GIRLS, AND PLAY WITH THEM.

THOSE THAT CHOSE NOT TO PLAY ALONG WITH HER WHIMS WERE SLAIN WITHOUT MERCY.

SHE WOULD THEN FORCE THEM INTO THE ROLE OF BEING HER LITTLE SISTER.

THIS VICIOUS CYCLE REPEATED ITSELF TWENTY-NINE TIMES.

THE PARENTS OF "A" ONCE NOTIFIED OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING, DECIDED NOT TO RETURN TO JAPAN.

PLEASE, SPARE US... DON'T PUBLISH IT.

THEY HAVE INSTEAD CHOSEN TO PUT TOGETHER A BOOK OF THEIR DAUGHTER'S CRAYON DRAWINGS AND JOURNAL ENTRIES, WHICH WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED UNDER THE TITLE *SKETCHES AND REMEMBRANCES.*

IN SPITE OF WIDESPREAD CRITICISMS MADE BY THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS THAT THIS IS A "SHAMELESS MONEY-GRAB," THIS BOOK HAS BECOME AN INSTANT BESTSELLER, WITH PREORDERS TOPPING OVER 1.5 MILLION COPIES.

SKETCHES AND REMEMBRANCES will not be sold, in consideration of the bereaved families of the victims. We kindly appreciate your understanding.
SHIRAIKE BOOKSTORE

TWO MONTHS LATER...

WELCOME! I CAN HELP YOU RIGHT HERE!

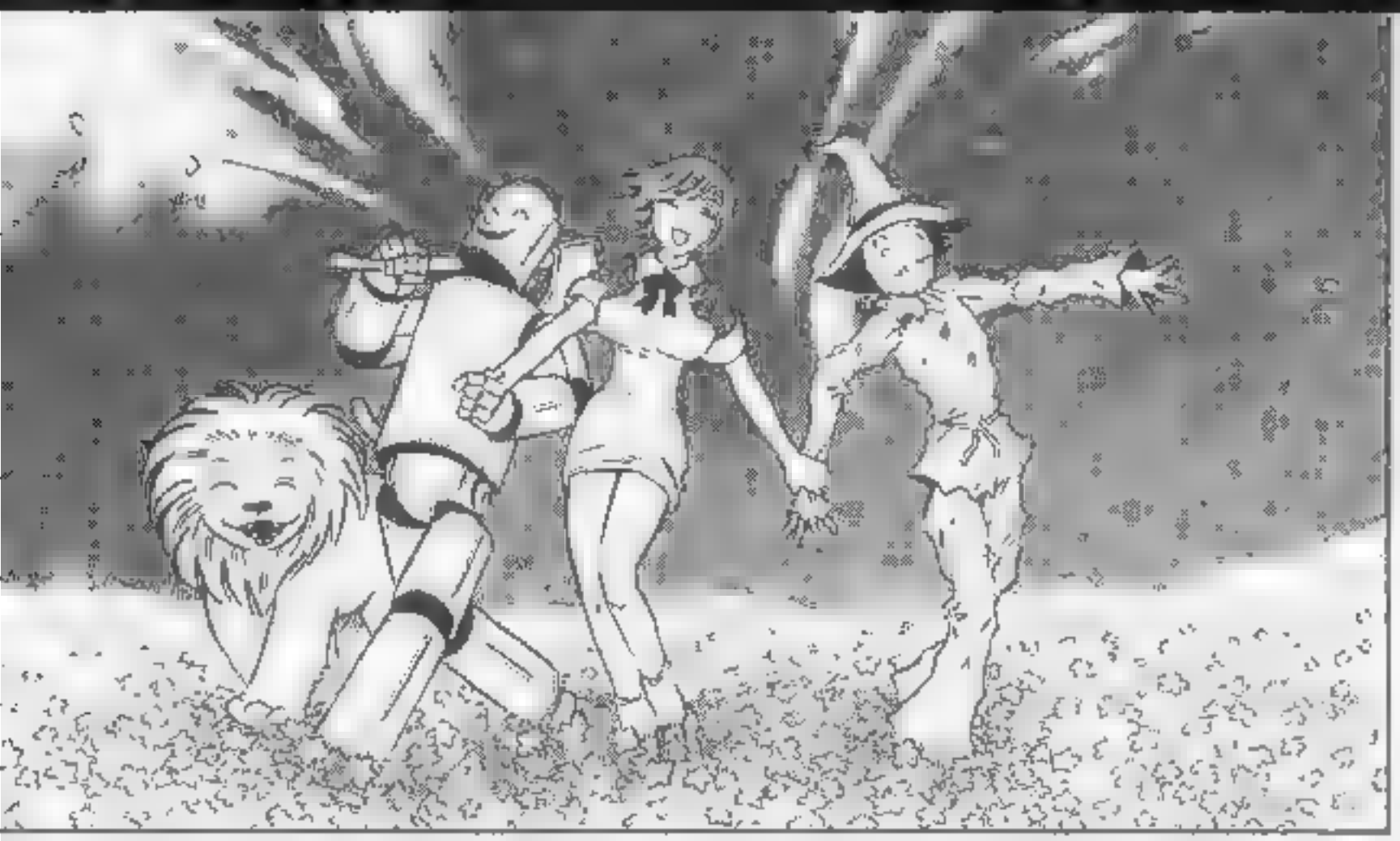
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO PUT A COVER ON IT?

THAT WILL BE 480 YEN.

PICTURE BOOK

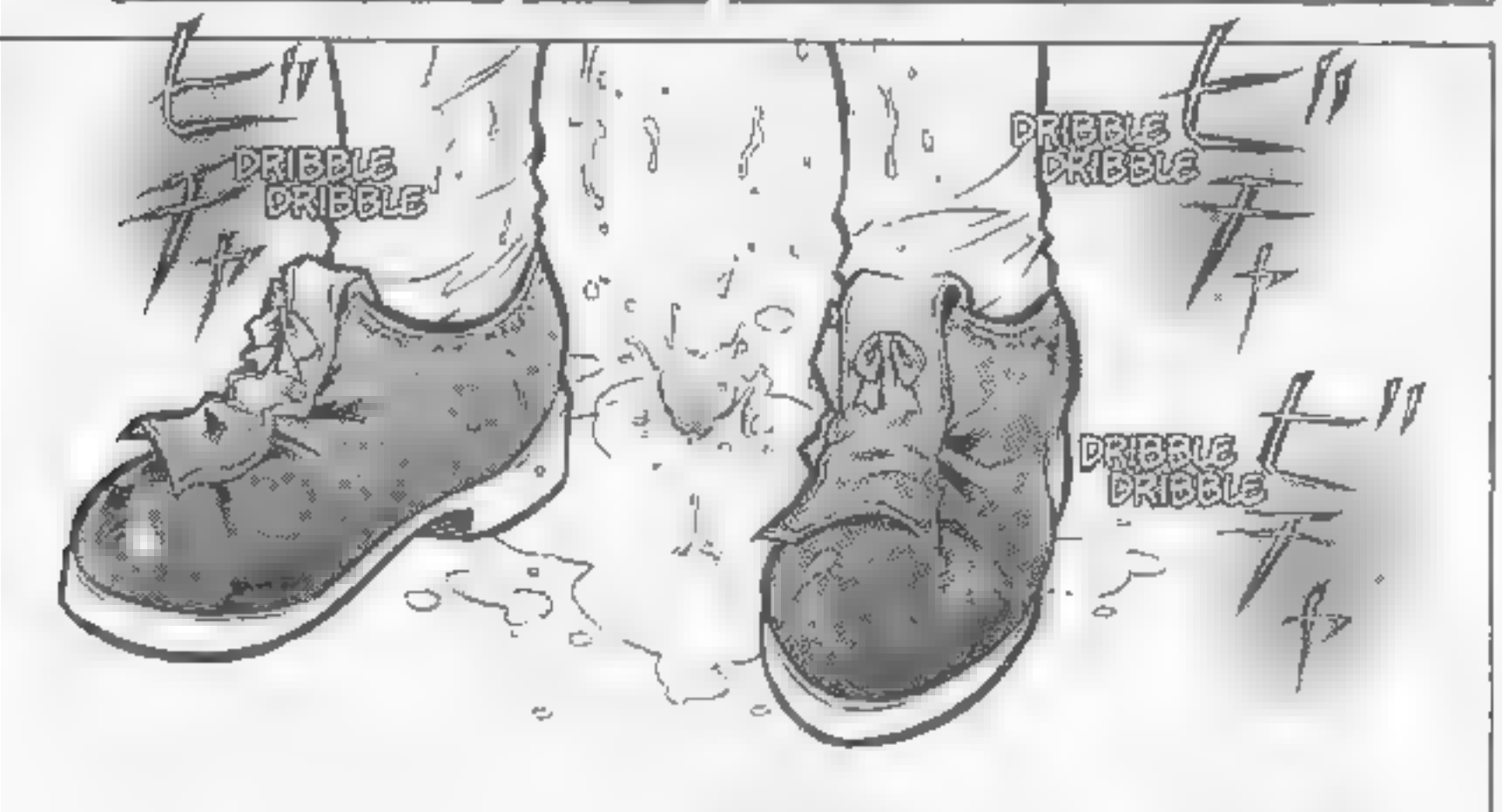
THE WIZARD OF OZ

THE WIZARD



MY GOD!

>GIGGLE<
HEH HEH...


DRIBBLE DRIBBLE
DRIBBLE DRIBBLE
DRIBBLE DRIBBLE

WAA HHH...

AAH!

AH!

I... I...

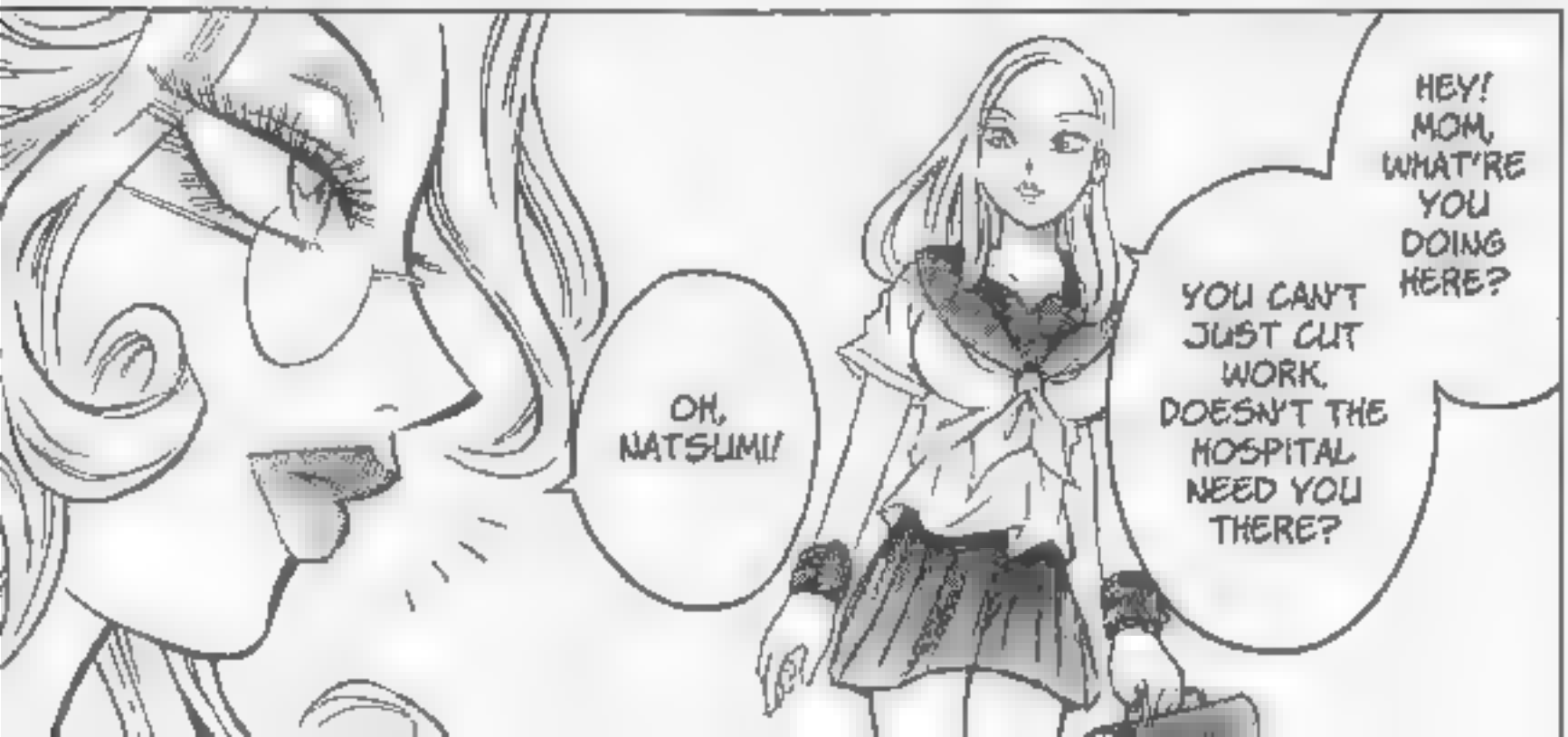
DOCTOR, I'M REALLY SORRY...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MIDORI.

I'LL COME BACK AND GET YOU THIS BOOK LATER, OKAY?

LET'S SEE... KARAOKE... BOWLING... HANGING OUT AND EATING WITH FRIENDS, AND... UM...
...I HAVE TO START TEACHING HER HOW PEOPLE HER AGE PLAY AND SPEND THEIR TIME.

SHE APPARENTLY USED TO PLAY HERE A LOT UP UNTIL SHE WAS SIX, BUT...


OH, NATSUMI!
YOU CAN'T JUST CUT WORK. DOESN'T THE HOSPITAL NEED YOU THERE?
HEY! MOM, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M ON THE NIGHT-SHIFT TONIGHT →

WELL, HONEY, MAYBE FOR ONLY ABOUT A HALF-HOUR.

IF YOU HAVE ALL THIS FREE TIME, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME SOMEWHERE NICE TO EAT OR SOMETHING?

AND I'M CHECKIN' FOR SPLIT-ENDS

SERIOUSLY, MOM, YOU'VE JUST BEEN DOING WHATEVER YOU WANT SINCE YOU AND DAD SPLIT, DON'TCHA THINK?

SHE HAS NO RELATIVES OR FRIENDS, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD JUST COME OUT HERE WITH HER AND GET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR, SINCE NO ONE ELSE WILL TAKE HER.

THIS GIRL, MIDORI, HAS BEEN COMLETELY ABANDONED BY HER PARENTS, EXCEPT FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

REALLY...

7" 7" PICE PICE

I THINK YOU'RE JUST A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME.

I'M NATSUMI AKIYAMA!

SPLOINK!

DIN... DINNER?

MOM SAID THAT SHE'D TAKE ME OUT FOR DINNER TONIGHT...

SO HOW 'BOUT YOU JOIN US?

SHE HAS TO LEARN THE IMPORTANCE, AND JOY, OF MAKING FRIENDS AND INTERACTING WITH OTHERS.

BASIC ACADEMIC TRAINING AND CONDITIONING TO THE INS-AND-OUTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE ALONE WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE MIDORI.

FRIED SHRIMP, MAYBE SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

WHATTA YOU WANT TO EAT? YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT.

HEY!

THAT'S THE "I WANNA EAT TONKATSU" FACE!*

* FRIED, BREADED PORK.

MAYBE SHE FEELS A SPECIAL AFFINITY FOR NATSUMI BECAUSE THEY'RE SO CLOSE IN AGE?

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HER SHOW HER SMILE TO A STRANGER.

SMILE

...ISN'T ALL THAT FAR AWAY.

...PERHAPS THE DAY THAT MIDORI WILL BEGIN MAKING FRIENDS AND HANGING OUT WITH PEOPLE HER AGE, AND MAKING A LIFE FOR HERSELF...

IF WE CAN KEEP HER REHABILITATION GOING AT THIS PACE...

I'M SURPRISED, TOO. SHE NEVER FINISHES HOSPITAL FOOD..

WOW! SHE EATS A LOT!

CHOMP CHOMP

CHOMP CHOMP

CHOMP CHOMP

MMMM

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A SHOCK, CONSIDERING THAT HOSPITAL FOOD ISN'T THAT— !

YOU... KILLED... MY...

WHAT?! WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

KYAAA!

CRASH

YOU SICK MURDER-ER!

I-IT WASN'T ME...

IT WAS MY SISTER THAT DID IT..

HEY, HEY! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

HOW DARE YOU TREAT CUSTO-MERS LIKE THAT!

UM, MOM?

WE TRULY APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVEN-IENCE!

WE WILL SEE TO IT THAT ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES GO THROUGH CUSTOMER TRAINING AND THAT THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!

I'M GOING HOME, MOM.

NA-NAT-SUMI! WHY IS MIDORI GUILTY OF THINGS HER SISTER DID, HUH?!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT THIS IS THE SISTER OF THAT GIRL WHO KILLED THOSE TWENTY-NINE LITTLE GIRLS?

IF YOU'D LET ME KNOW, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE INVITED HER OUT TO DINNER WITH US.

SORRY, DID YOU JUST SAY "SIS"?

...WANT TO PLAY WITH YOU MORE, S.S...

I...

W-WAIT...

SLAP

AHHH!

DON'T YOU EVER CALL ME THAT AGAIN! WHY ON EARTH DO YOU THINK I'M YOUR SISTER!

NATSUMI, I WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE TO MIDORI RIGHT NOW! AS YOUR MOTHER, I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DO WHAT YOU JUST DID!

GET AWAY FROM ME! I'M GOING HOME!

THWAP

NATSUMI, GET AHOLD OF YOUR-SELF!

GET THE HELL OUTTA SHIRAIKE! JUST LOOKING AT YOU MAKES ME WANNA PUKE!

I'LL MAKE MY SURE MY DAUGHTER APOLOGIZES TO YOU, AND MEANS IT.
LET'S GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.
MIDORI, I'M SO SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH ALL OF THIS.

FLICK
FLICK
FLICK

STUDENT DAILY PLANNING

AH!

STUDENT DAILY PLANNING

S-SIS...

OUR ADDRESS IS WRITTEN ON HERE, TOO.

SHIRAIKE, WARD 4...

BLOCK 16...

HELLO?

MOM? YEAH, WHATTA YOU WANT?

RING RING RING

RING RING RING

WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT SAY ANYTHING TO YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT MIDORI BEING THE SISTER OF THE SHIRAIKE SERIAL SLAYER?

I WANT TO AVOID ANY TROUBLE WE CAN. I DON'T WANT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE RESTAURANT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

SEE YOU TOMORROW, DR. AKIYAMA.

STOP THAT "WHATTA YOU WANT" BUSINESS.

IT'S ABOUT MIDORI.

I WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE TO HER - IN PERSON.

-- COULD ADD INCREDIBLE STRESS ON HER.

YOU TOLD HER TO "GET THE HELL OUT OF SHIRAIKE," BUT I NEED YOU TO REALIZE THAT A SUDDEN CHANGE IN MIDORI'S SURROUNDINGS --

IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME, YOUR ALLOWANCE IS CUT OFF, FOREVER!

SLAM

CHRIST

SEE YOU TOMORROW.

WHA-AAT?

IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL. SERIOUSLY, WHO CARES?

YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

UM...

I'M SICK OF HER BOSSING ME AROUND LIKE THAT...

TOUCH NO

UM, SIS?

STUDENT DAILY PLANNER

YOU DROPPED THIS...

KYAA!

SLAP

WHAT THE HELL YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SNEAKING INTO PEOPLES' HOUSES LIKE THAT!

HOW DARE YOU JUST OPEN MY BOOK AND FIND MY ADDRESS! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU SUCK!

I JUST THOUGHT THAT IF I GAVE YOU SOMETHING YOU DROPPED...

...IT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY, SIS.

AAAHH..

AAAAHH..

KER-THACK

QUIT FUCKIN' WITH ME!

KYAA!

THUD

AND WHY DO YOU ALWAYS CALL THE OTHER GIRLS YOUR "SISTER"? WHY?

MIDORI! HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THAT YOU WERE GOING TO PLAY WITH OTHERS?!

YOUR ONLY SISTER IS ME! GOT IT?! DON'T YOU DARE GO NEAR ANYONE ELSE!

SLAM

HEARING YOU SAY THAT SERIOUSLY MAKES ME SICK!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO QUIT CALLING ME THAT?! HUH?!

ガッ

THWOP

ガッ

CRACK

GRAB

ガシッ

?!

YOU'RE...

...NOT MY SISTER.

ANYONE WHO SAYS THEY'RE MY SISTER, AND HITS ME, DIES.

WHA—

CRUNCH

WHA— NO!

CRITCH

CRACK

...PRESS THE POUND KEY TWICE.

PLEASE BEGIN SPEAKING AFTER THE TONE, AND WHEN YOU ARE DONE...

>BLEEP<

>BLEEP<

PRESS POUND TWICE.

HEY, NATSUMI? THIS IS REIKO...

TAKE CARE! LATER!

I GUESS YOU'RE BUSY OR SOMETHING, SO I'LL CALL YOU BACK TOMORROW.

BOOM

OH! SORRY!

WAS THAT... YURIKAWA?!

NO.. THERE'S NO WAY.

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

I'M GONNA HEAD TO BED.

IT'S ALREADY EIGHT! TIME FOR YOU TO GET GOING TO SCHOOL!

NATSUMI, I'M HOME!

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'VE GOT YOUR BLANKET OVER YOUR WITH THE A.C. ON FULL BLAST! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

ARE YOU STILL ASLEEP?!

NAT-SUMI?

ガチャ

DID YOU ALREADY FORGET THE MAIN COMPLAINT YOUR TEACHER HAD DURING THE PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE?! "SHE'S CONSTANTLY LATE," THEY SAID!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU THAT YOU NEED TO LEARN TO WAKE YOURSELF UP BEFORE I HAVE TO COME AND WAKE YOU UP!

WAKE UP

...WHAT HAPPENED TO MY NATSUMI?
MY GOD...

HEY THERE, EVERYONE! IT'S THE CREATOR OF *REIKO THE ZOMBIE SHOP*, REI HIKANO[illegible]ERE. I WANTED TO TRY MY FIRST "AFTERWORD" WITH VOLUME FOUR, SEEING AS HOW I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.

• ACT 17: I REALLY HAD A LOT OF FUN WITH THIS ONE. THERE'S A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION CALLED GIGADETH THAT APPEARS IN THIS CHAPTER. AS I AM SURE SOME OF YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED, THIS IS A PLAY ON THE METAL BAND MEGADETH'S NAME. I PERSONALLY HAD A LOT OF FUN DRAWING THE "CLEAN-UP CREW" CHARACTER.

• ACT 18: FOR THIS ACT, I USED ONE OF THOSE PENS USED FOR SIGNING YOUR NAME--A PEN THAT ZEBRA (A PEN COMPANY) MAKES CALLED "FUDE SIGN" (OR, "BRUSH SIGN"). BEFORE, I WAS USING A THINNER PEN CALLED A G-PEN. THE WIDTH OF THE FUDE SIGN PEN ALLOWED ME TO DRAW THICKER LINES FASTER, AND I THINK THAT SWITCHING TO THIS NEW PEN MADE THE DRAWING PART OF THIS ACT MOVE ALONG REALLY FAST.

• ACT 19: WHEN I WAS DOING THE PANEL-TO-PANEL LAYOUTS FOR THIS ACT, I PLANNED FOR TWO MORE PAGES THAN I ACTUALLY HAD SPACE FOR, AND TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT WHEN I STARTED DRAWING. THIS'D BE THE ACT THAT I WENT INTO COMPLETELY NOT THINKING. I WORKED AND WORKED TO SHRINK THE STORY BY TWO [illegible], AND THE REASON THAT THIS CHAPTER JUMPS RIGHT INTO THE STORY WITHOUT ANY "WARM-UP" IS BECAUSE OF THIS OVERSIGHT.

• ACT 20: I WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING REALLY SCARY--I MEAN TERRIFYING, NOT JUST GORY--THIS TIME AROUND. I WAS HOPING THAT AFTER IT WAS PRINTED I'D GET A LOT OF FAN MAIL TELLING ME HOW SCARY EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS, BUT I ONLY GOT LETTERS TELLING ME THAT IT WAS "REVOLTING" AND THINGS LIKE THAT . . . IS THAT WHAT YOU GUYS REALLY THINK?

• ACT 21: THIS SEEMS LIKE THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET MIDORI YOSHIKAWA, DOESN'T IT? WELL, IT ISN'T. SHE APPEARS SOMEWHERE IN VOLUME ONE, SO IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE, GRAB THE FIRST BOOK AND TAKE A LOOK-SEE.

2000 9 12

GALLERY

MIYO NYOUGA • AGE 20
YOKOSUKA PREFECTURE
THESE TWO ARE REALLY COMPLETE OPPOSITES! MAKES YOU WONDER IF THEY ARE REALLY TWINS, DOESN'T IT?

YUUKO KIYOU • AGE 17
YAMANASHI PREFECTURE
SAKI'S NO LONGER AN ENEMY, BUT AN ALLY THAT REIKO CAN'T BE WITHOUT!!

KOTOE NEKOTO • AGE 11
SAITAMA PREFECTURE
THE CONTRASTIVE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS OF REIKO AND RIRUKA ARE REALLY WELL-DONE ON THIS ONE

KEIKO YAMAZAKI • AGE 12
OKAYAMA PREFECTURE
THE CHARACTER MISA HIROSHIMA
LOOKS REALLY YOUNG, BUT HOW OLD DO YOU THINK SHE IS?

GOT ANY COMMENTS ABOUT BOOK FOUR? WANT TO WRITE TO REI HIKAMOTO? WANT TO SEE YOUR DRAWINGS IN THE ZOMBIE SHOP? SEND THEM HERE!

THE ZOMBIE SHOP
C/O DARK HORSE COMICS
10956 SE MAIN STREET
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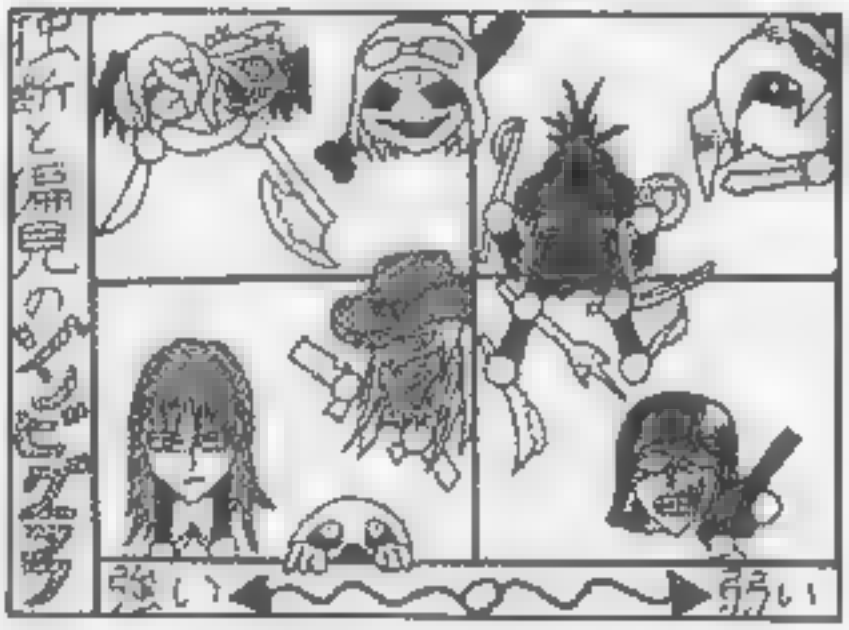
U.S.A.

the ZOMBIE SHOP GALLERY

KOHMA KUMEWA - AGE 14
FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW EVERYONE ELSE THINKS THE ZOMBIES STACK UP AGAINST EACH OTHER.

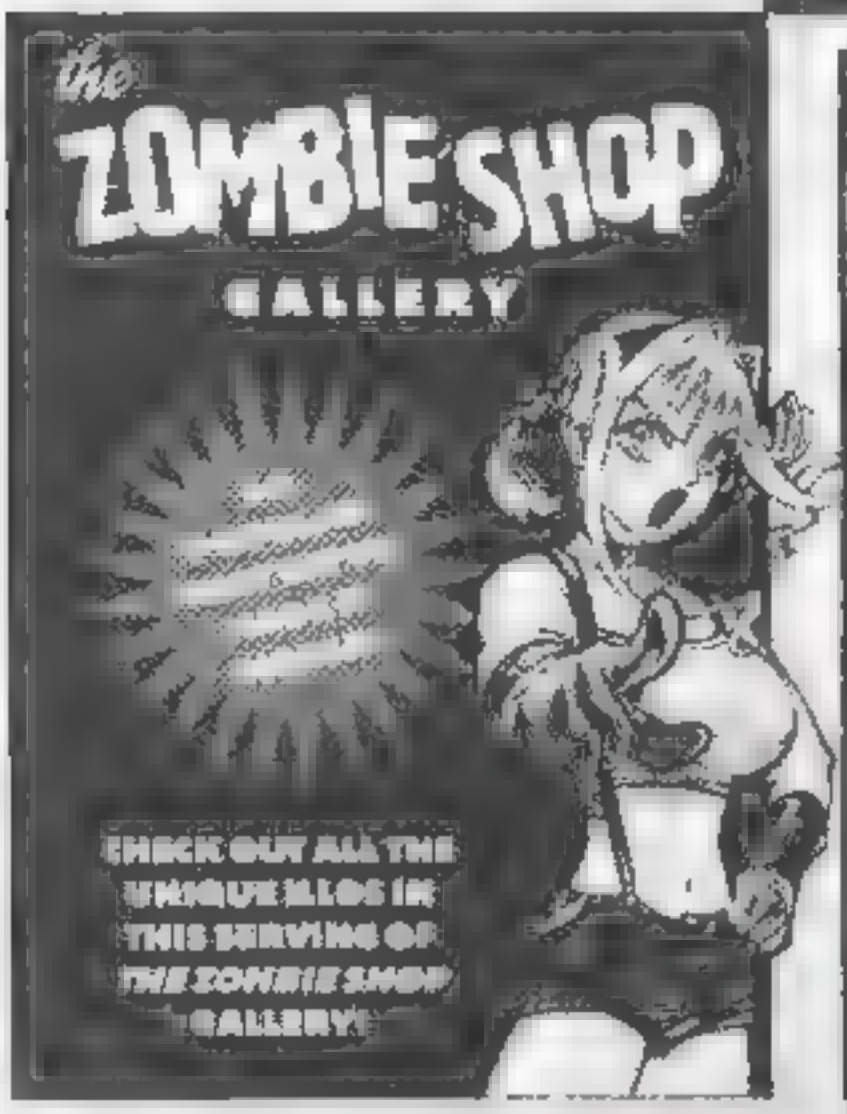
GROUP PICS!



TSUBAKI OYUKI - AGE 12
MIYAGI PREFECTURE
THESE ARE THE CUUUUUTEST ANIMAL VERSIONS OF THE ZOMBIE SHOP CHARACTERS!!

THE ZOMBIE SHOP IS LIFE! - AGE 12
KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE
DID THE TITLE PAGE OF ACT 10 IN BOOK TWO INSPIRE YOU TO DRAW THIS?

[illegible] - AGE 9
SAITAMA PREFECTURE
WHO DO YOU THINK IS HOTTER, RUDOH OR YUKI?



REIKO FASHION GALLERY!

AN NAKAGAMI • AGE 14
AICHI PREFECTURE
REIKO'S NAME PAINTED UNDER HER EYE IS REALLY COOL AND LOOKS AMAZING!

RUKA #223 • AGE 14
KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE
THE FLOWERS IN THE BACK LOOK REALLY GREAT ♡

AYA KOJIMA • AGE 12
SAITAMA PREFECTURE
I LIKE THE BRAIDS!
(REIKO WROTE THIS!)

THANK YOU!

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STOP

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!